FAIRY TAIL

31

Hiro Mashima

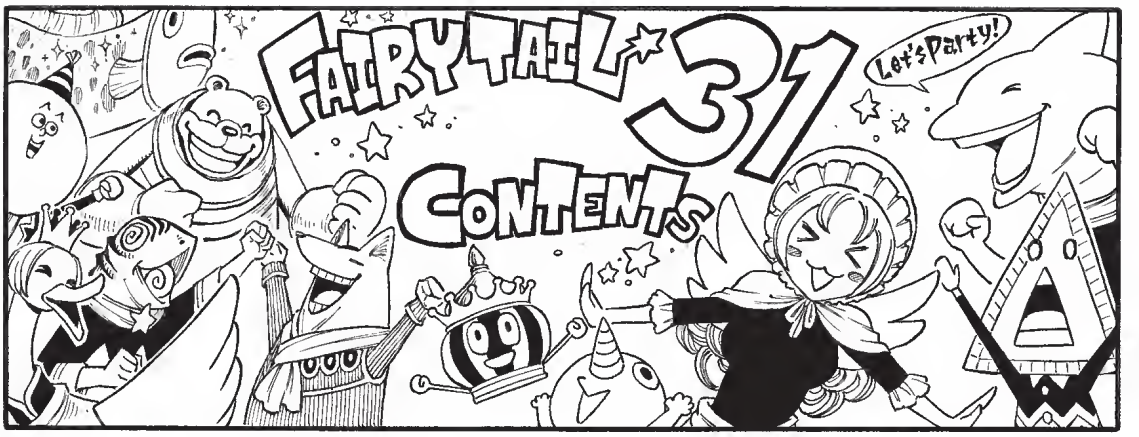
Creator of *Rave Master*

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

31

HIRO MASHIMA



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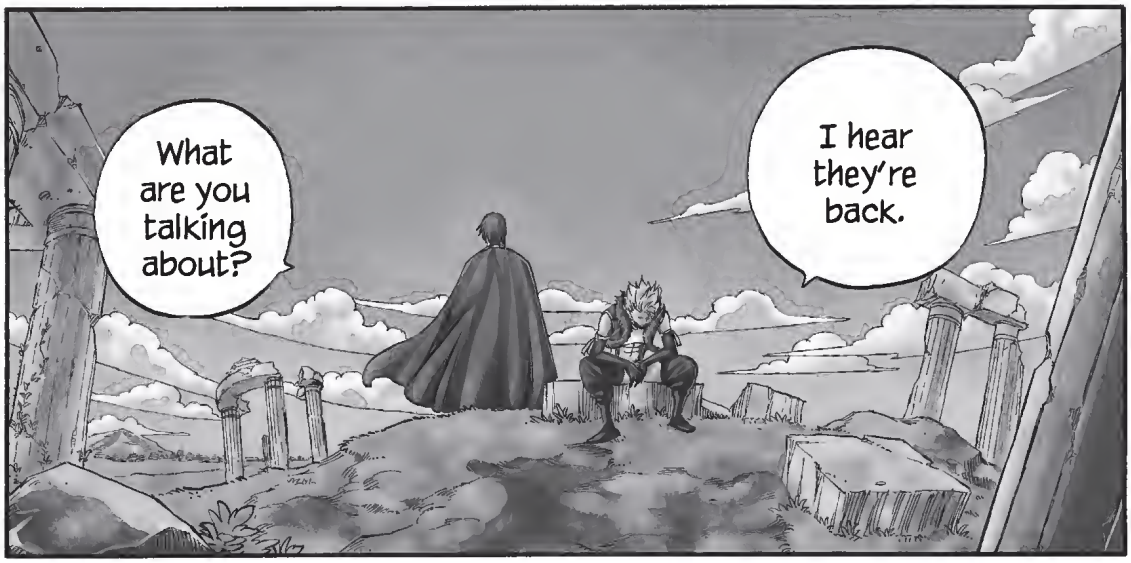
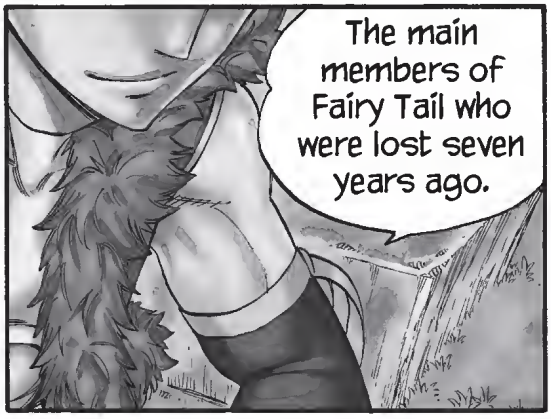

What are you talking about?
I hear they're back.

Not interested.


The main members of Fairy Tail who were lost seven years ago.

That's ancient history.

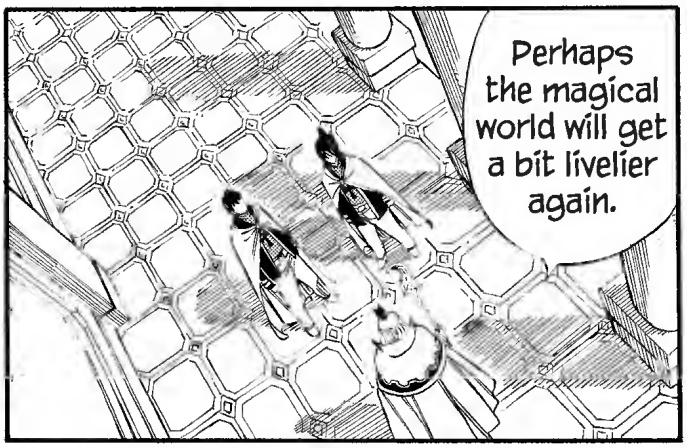
Don't lie to me, Rogue!
You always talk about how much you admired Natsu.

Chapter 258: Saber Tooth

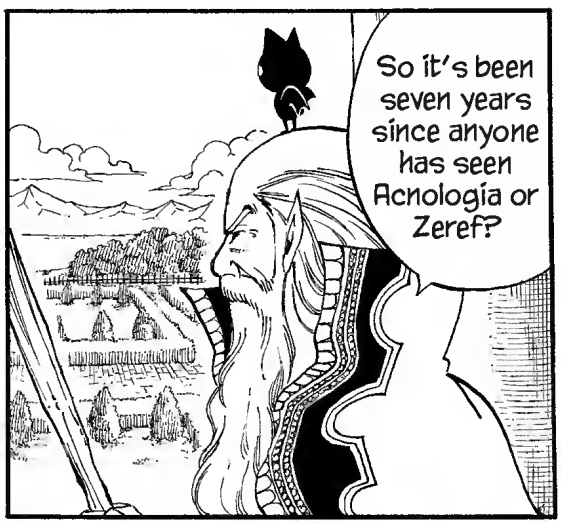
FAIRY TAIL

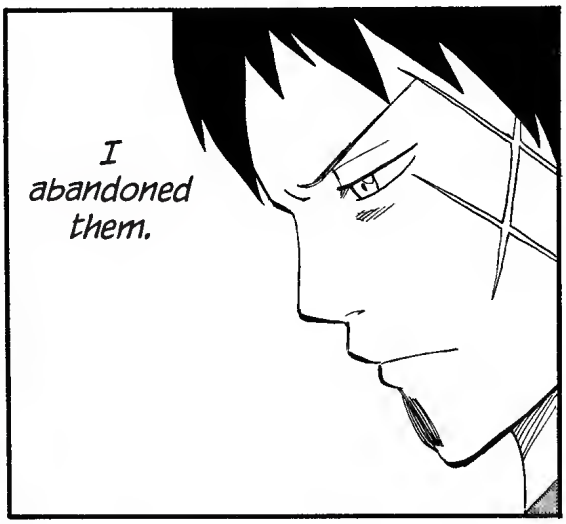
The Magic Council, Era.
MAGIC COUNCIL
ELDER ORG
More importantly, have you heard the news yet?
Has the council come to a resolution regarding inter-guild commerce regulations?
No... That will take some time.
Mm.
Master Org, welcome back from your meeting.

...
You mean of the return of the main members of the Fairy Tail guild?
MAGIC COUNCIL
DORANBALT
MAGIC COUNCIL
LAHAR


Perhaps the magical world will get a bit livelier again.

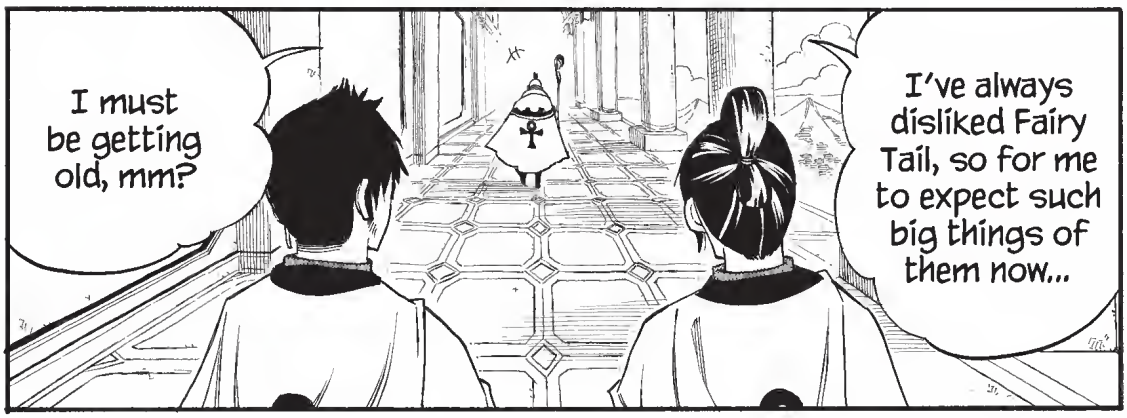
I...
That's one weight lifted off your shoulders, right, Doranbalt?

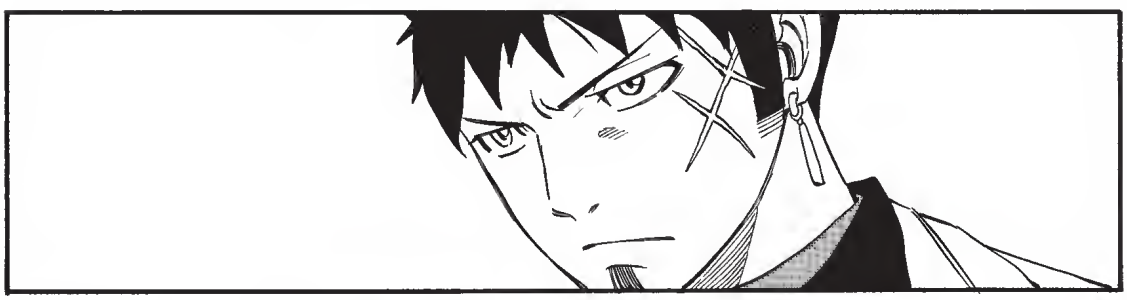

So it's been seven years since anyone has seen Acnologia or Zeref?

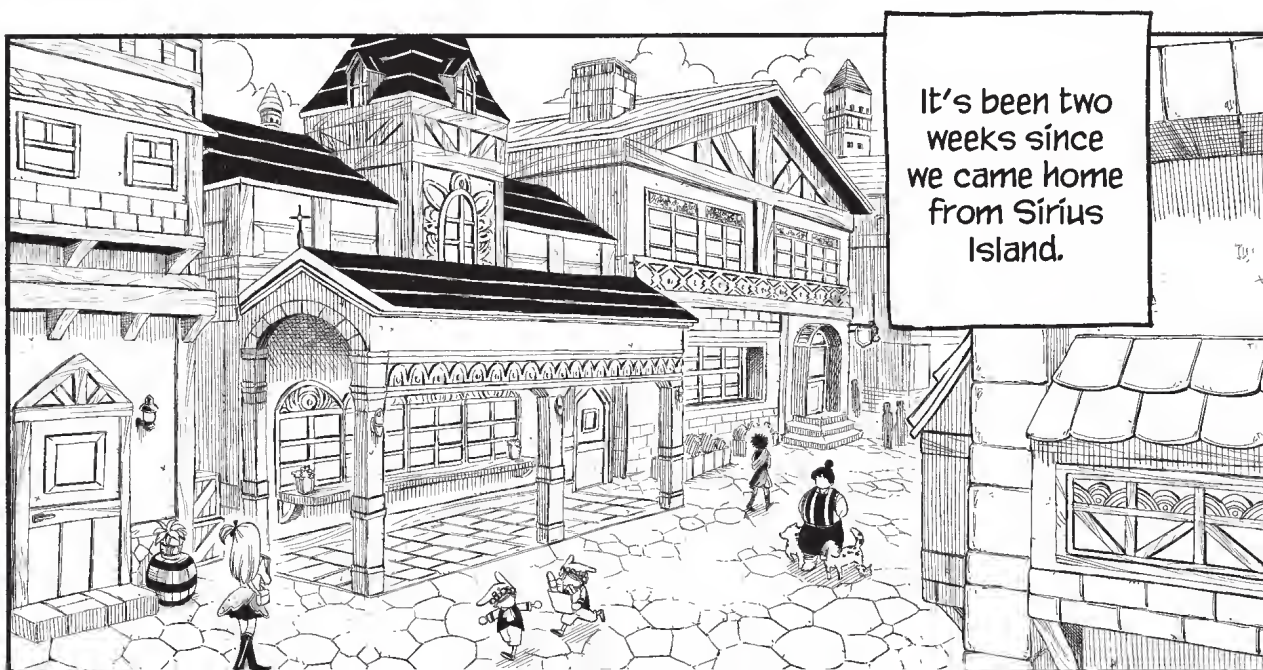

I abandoned them.

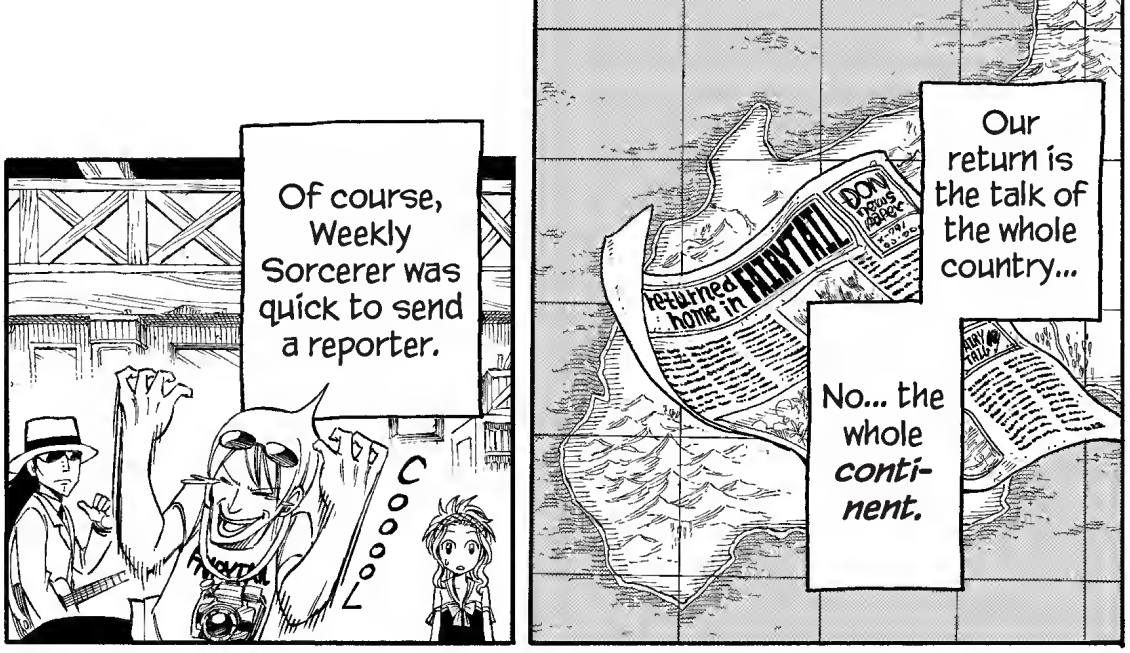
These seven years have been too quiet.
Forgive me... we still have no idea where they went.
Perhaps we ought to expand the Reconnaissance Corps.
We've been keeping an eye on the progress of Saber Tooth...
...but Tartarus has kept a low profile.
Same for what's left of Grimoire Heart.
None have any information on Zeref or Acnologia.
I think it's about time for daybreak.
Perhaps it will signal a new dawn for the magical world.
But the silence is even more unsettling... Like a night that won't end.
And you're saying the trigger ...
...will be Fairy Tail...?

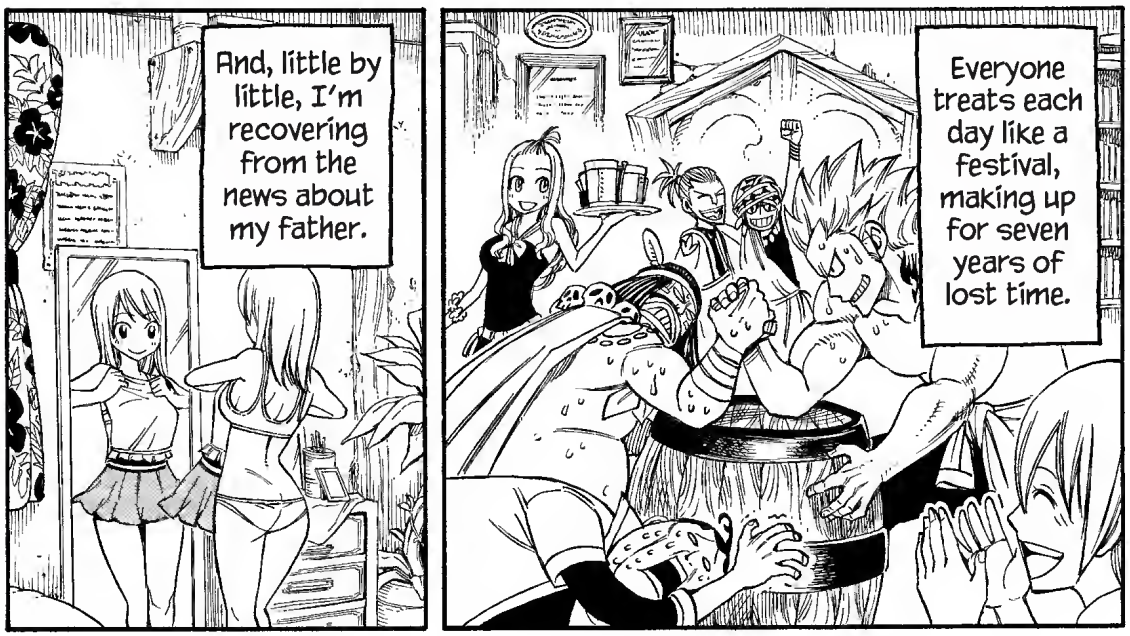
Fwah ha ha ha!
?!
?!

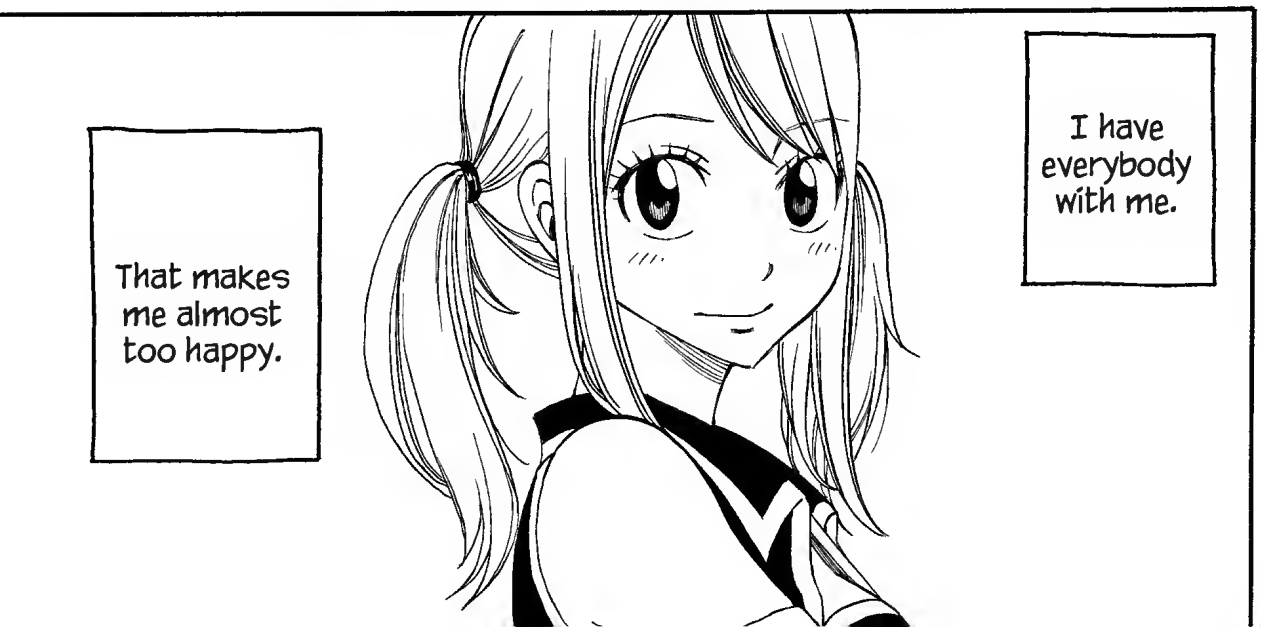

I must be getting old, mm?
I've always disliked Fairy Tail, so for me to expect such big things of them now...




It's been two weeks since we came home from Sirius Island.

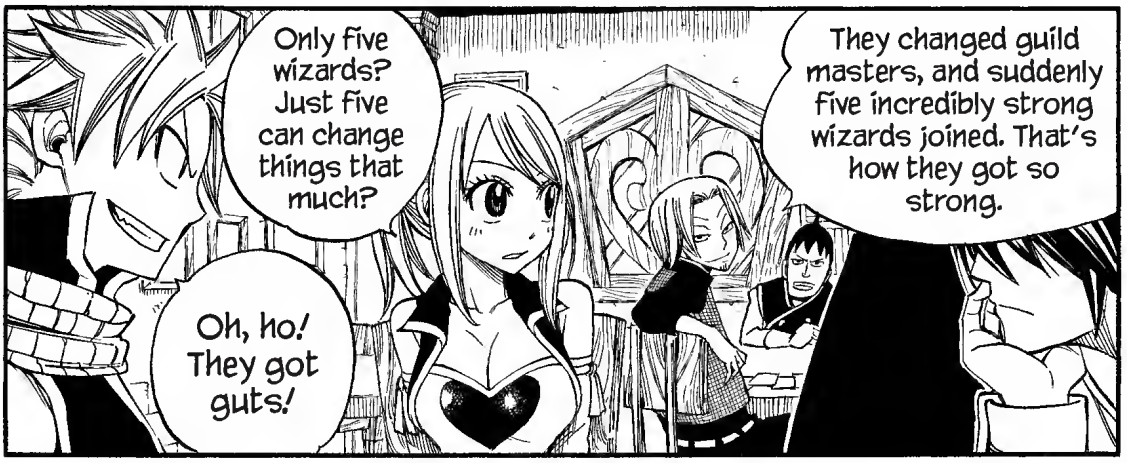

Our return is the talk of the whole country...
returned home in FAIRY TAIL
No... the whole *continent.*
Of course, Weekly Sorcerer was quick to send a reporter.
C
OOOO
L


And, little by little, I'm recovering from the news about my father.
Everyone treats each day like a festival, making up for seven years of lost time.

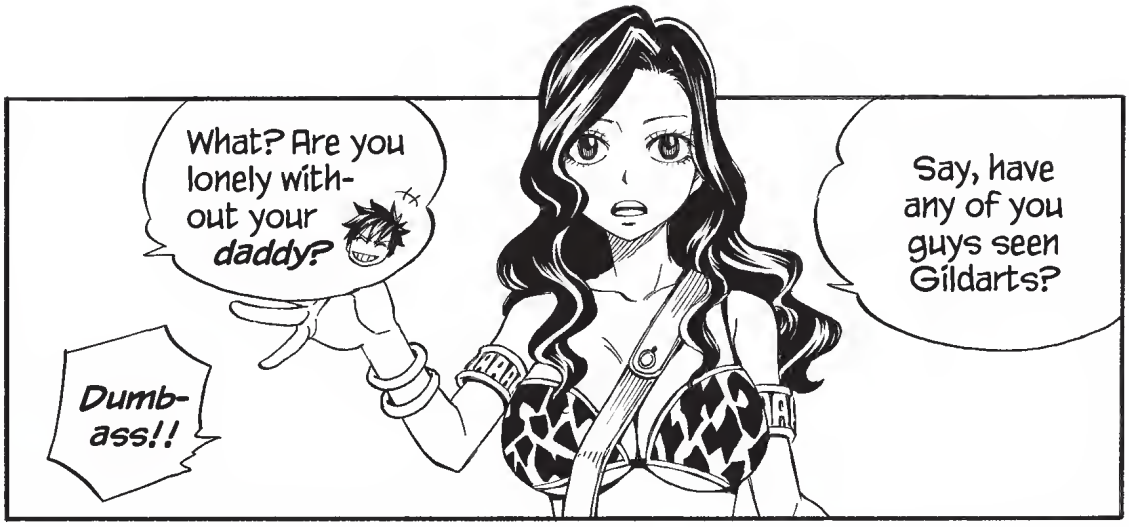

That makes me almost too happy.
I have everybody with me.

Saber Tooth?
Like the saber-toothed tiger.

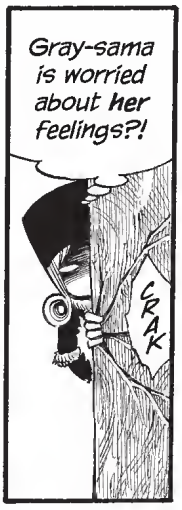
They didn't stand out so much seven years ago.
Never heard of 'em.
They've surpassed Pegasus and Lamia to become the strongest wizard guild in Fiore.
So they've really grown over the last seven years?


Only five wizards? Just five can change things that much?
They changed guild masters, and suddenly five incredibly strong wizards joined. That's how they got so strong.
Oh, ho! They got guts!

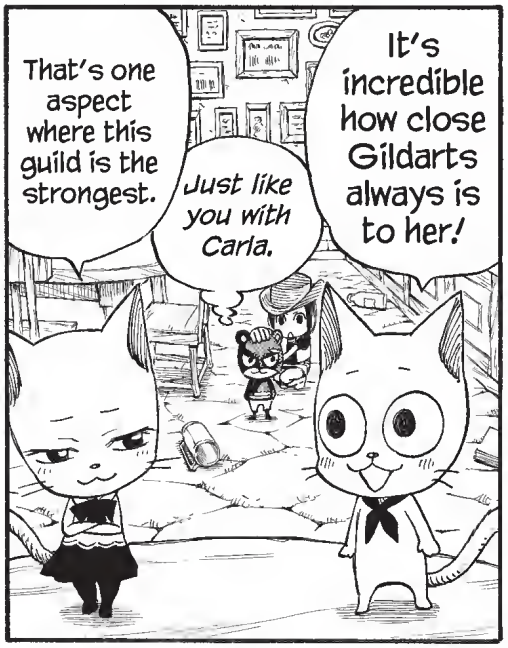
AHH!! I'M SORRY I ASKED!
Fiore's No. 1 weakest guild.
The lowest rank.
The worst.
Wendy, you didn't have to ask.
You really want to know?
By the way, what's our ranking as a guild these days?
Whaaa ?
Huh?
Well, sure! You know?
That's great!!!! Sounds like fun !!!!
SKRKT
Kaaah ha ha ha!!!
Ah ha ha!
Oh, geez!
Big bro can't be beat.
That's true!! Sounds like fun!
I'm all fired up!!!!
It means we get to enjoy moving up the ladder all over again!!!!

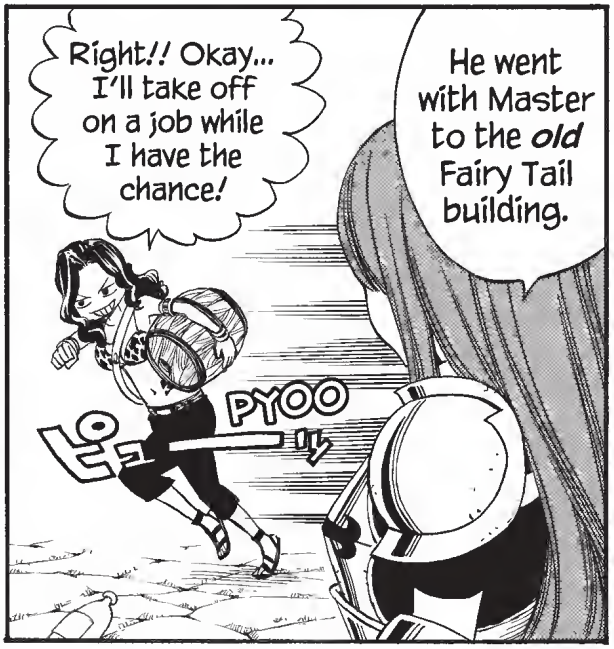

What? Are you lonely without your daddy?
Dumb-ass!!
Say, have any of you guys seen Gildarts?

Isn't it okay to call him Master?
...talk to the master— Um, I mean Makarov ...
If you want Gildarts, then...

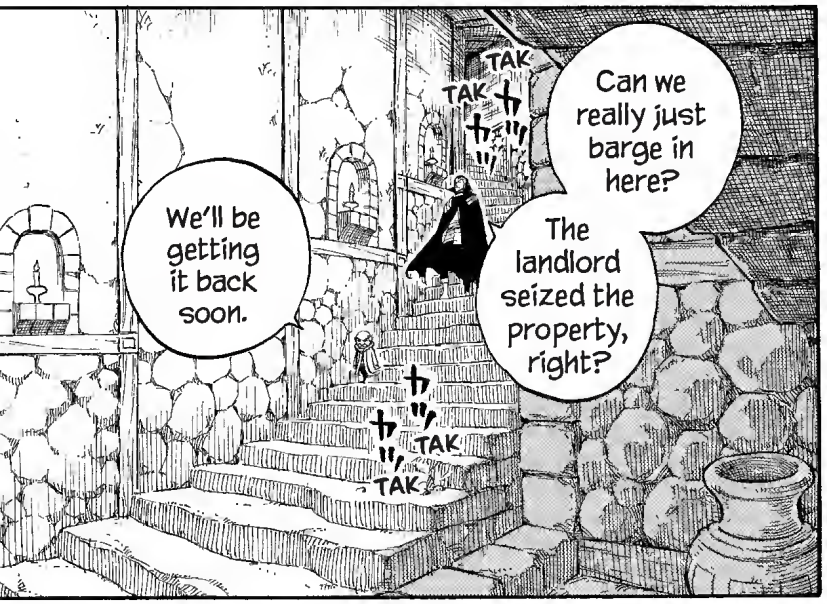

Gray-sama is worried about her feelings?!
CRAK

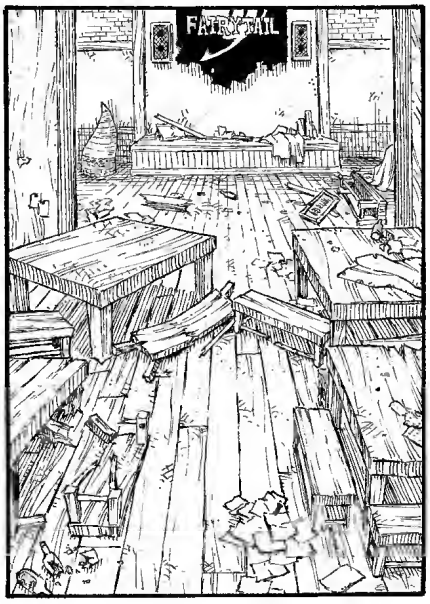
No, it's okay. Don't worry about it.
Oh!! Sorry!


That's one aspect where this guild is the strongest.
Just like you with Carla.
It's incredible how close Gildarts always is to her!


Right!! Okay... I'll take off on a job while I have the chance!
He went with Master to the old Fairy Tail building.
PYOO

We're a weird guild, huh?

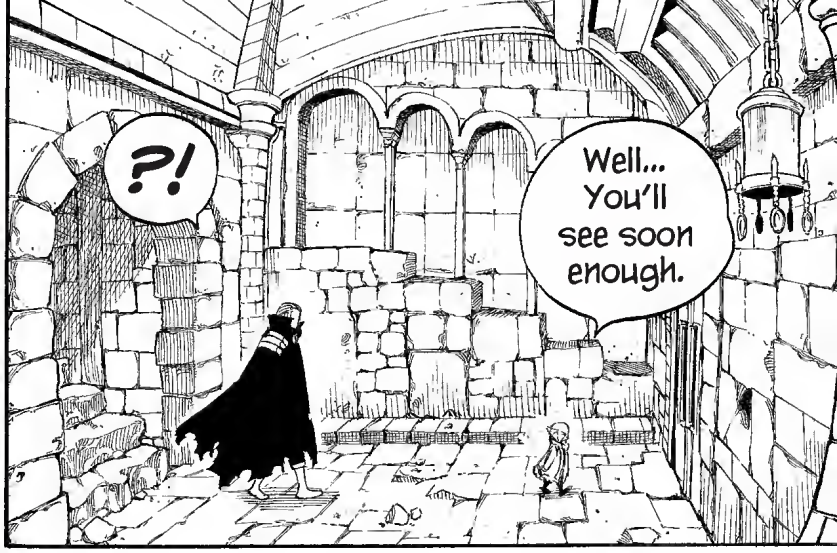

TAK
TAK
Can we really just barge in here?
The landlord seized the property, right?
We'll be getting it back soon.
TAK
TAK
TAK

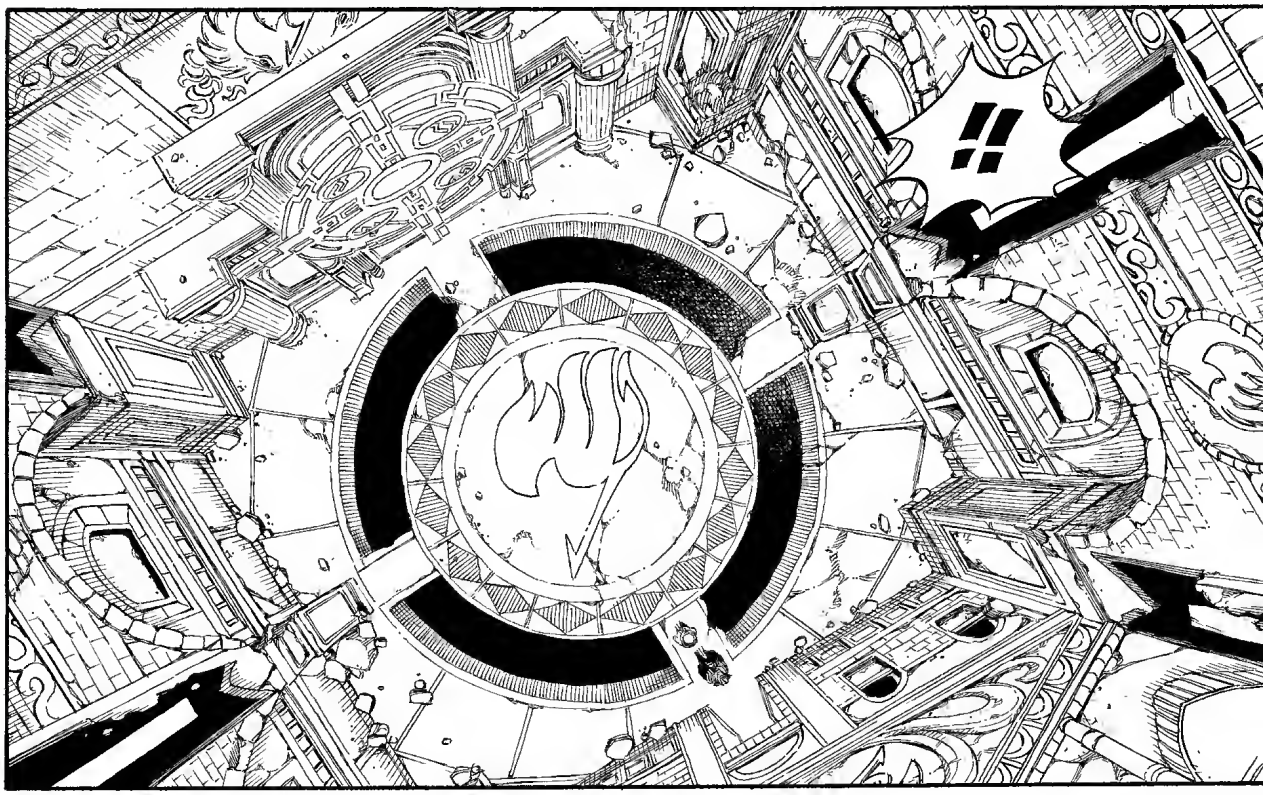

FAIRY TAIL

That's because I never told anybody.
Why not?

TAK
TAK
But I never knew...
...there was such a deep underground passage beneath the guild...
TAK
TAK

Here we go...
KREEEEEK


?!
Well... You'll see soon enough.

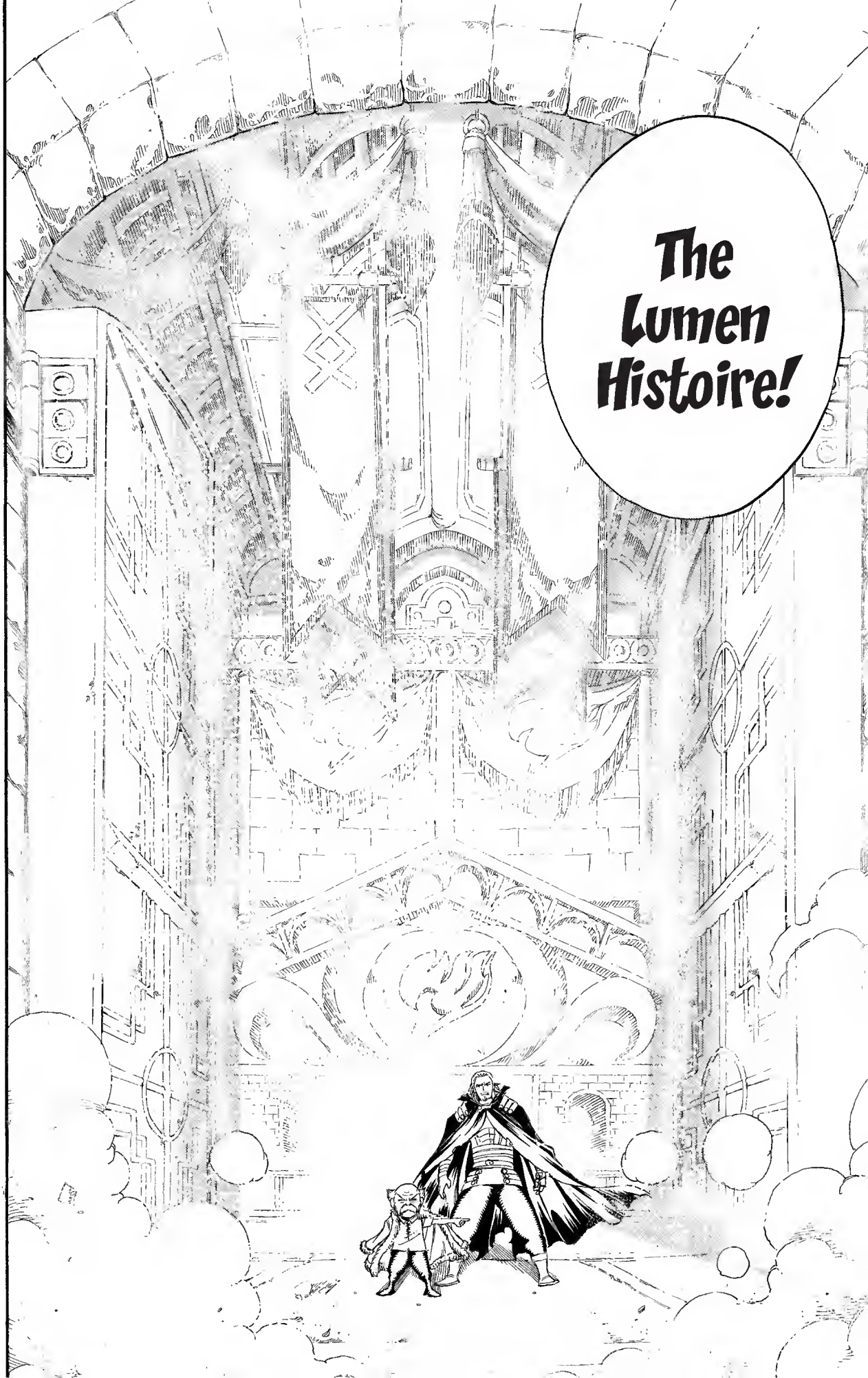

!!

FWSH
FWSH
FWSH
FWSH

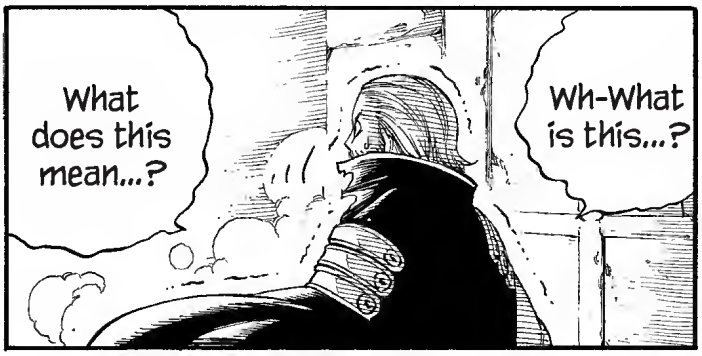
FWSH

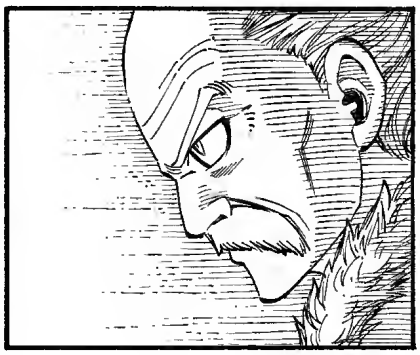
Wh... What is this place...?

RUMMMMMBLE
FLASH
RUMMMMMBLE
This is our guild's biggest secret.


The Lumen Histoire!

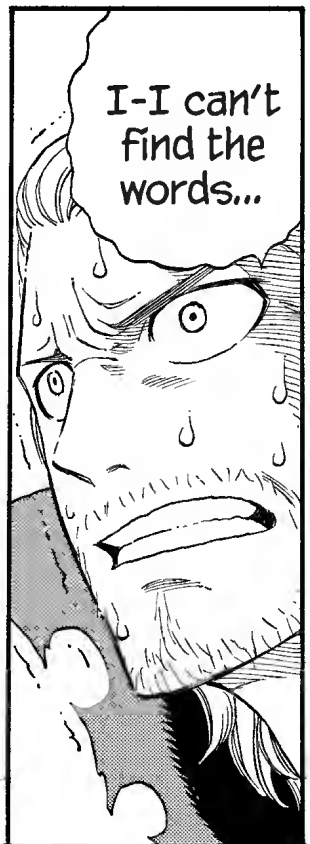
Ah...
Ah...
Ahh...


What does this mean...?
Wh-What is this...?



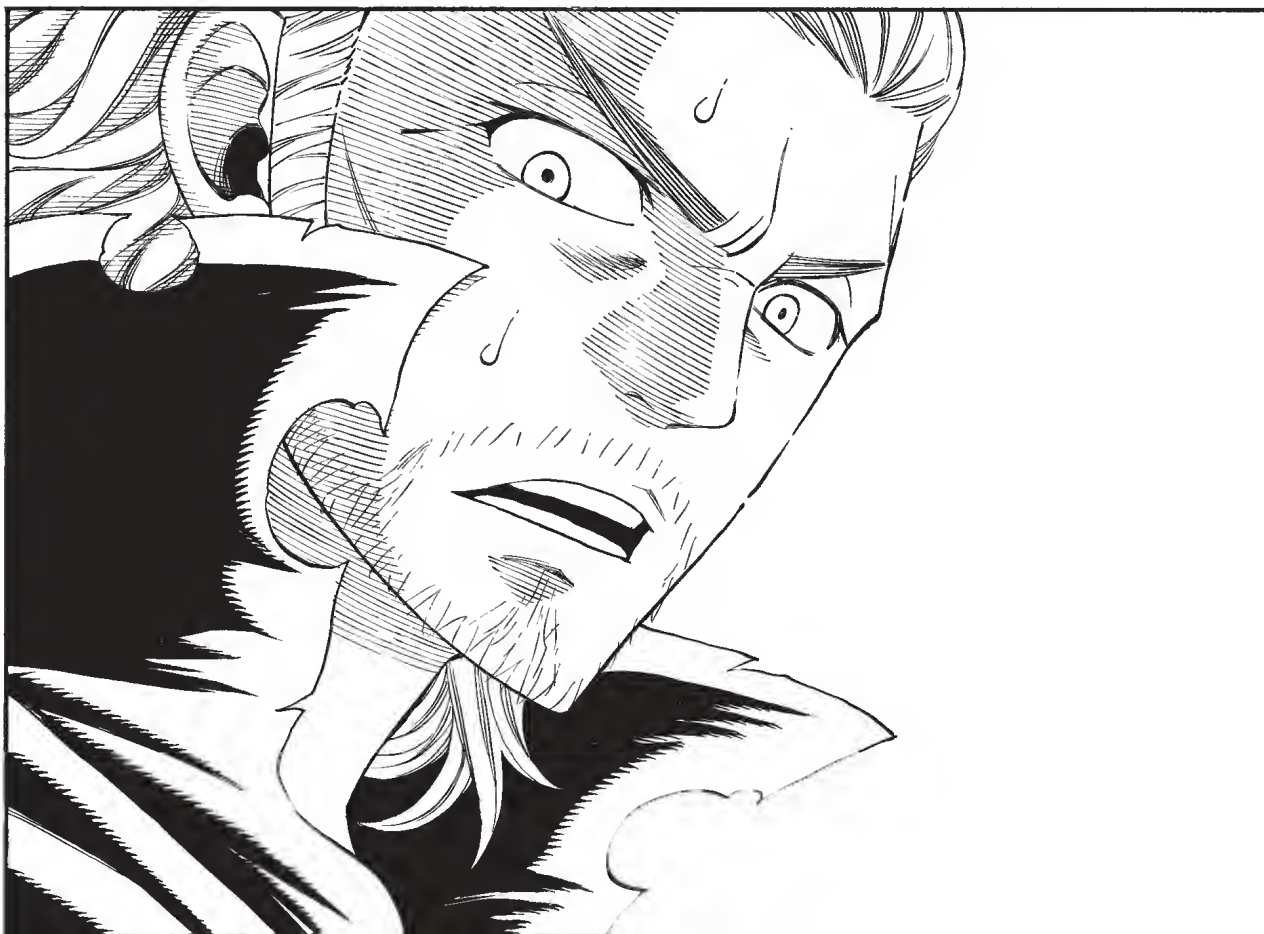
Why would such a thing be under the guild...?
And why show it to me?

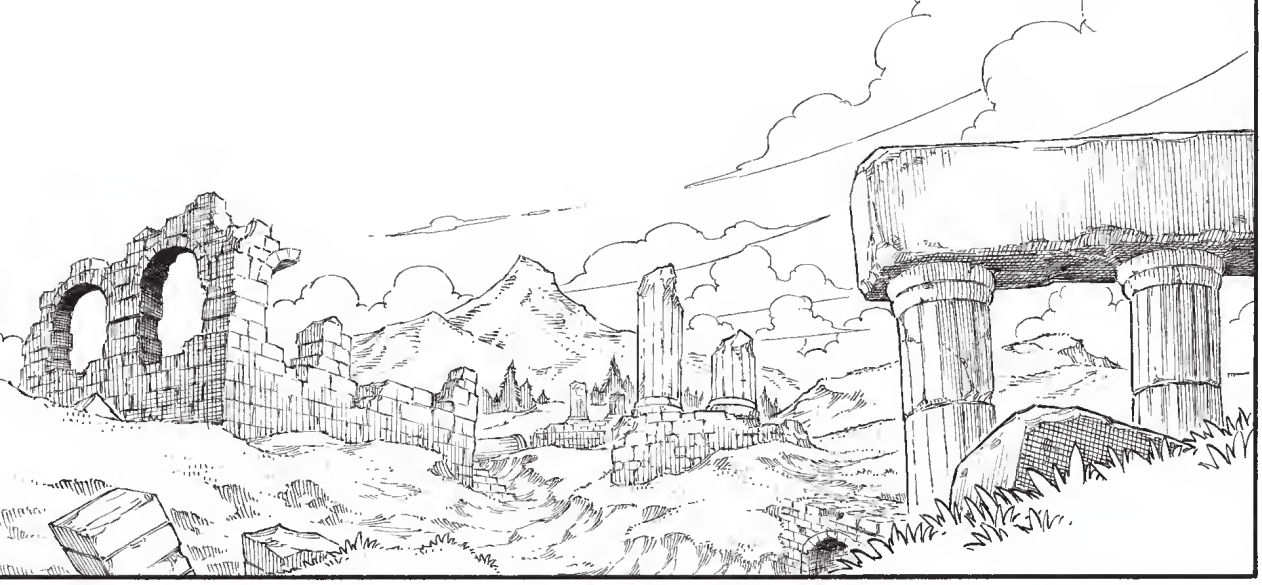
I'm not surprised. When Precht showed this to me...
...I was struck dumb too.


I-I can't find the words...

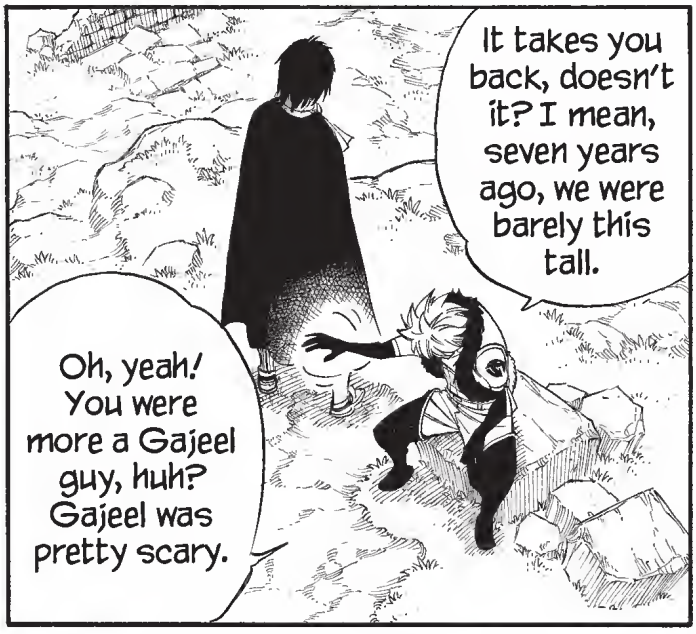
This was left to us by Mavis. It is the essence of Fairy Tail.

Because you will be the next master of Fairy Tail...
...
Gildarts!

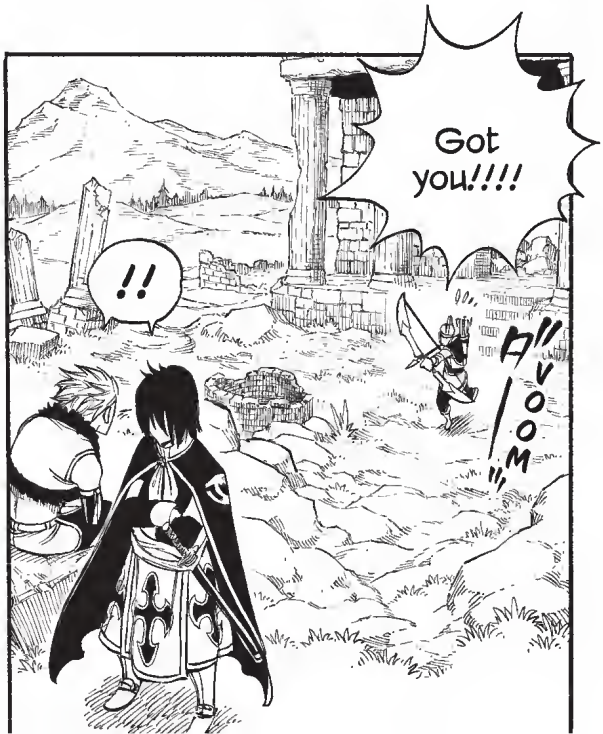




Don't dredge up the past, Sting.
The path we're on didn't lead to them.


It takes you back, doesn't it? I mean, seven years ago, we were barely this tall.
Oh, yeah! You were more a Gajeel guy, huh? Gajeel was pretty scary.

Die !!!!
TWANG !!

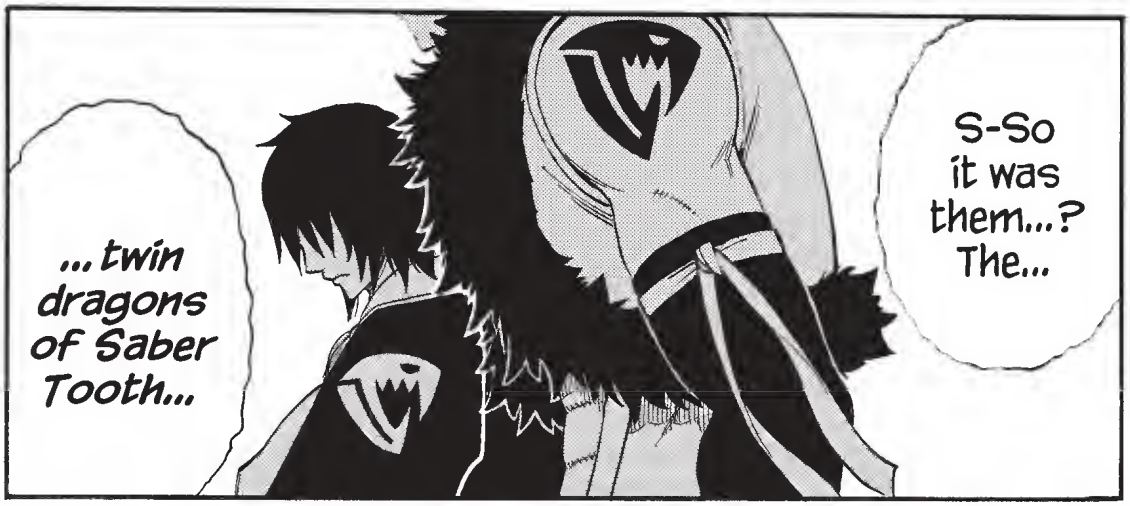

Got you!!!!
!!
VOOM !!

GRAB
CRUNCH
!!
PTUI
!!
It can't be...!!!
KRAK
KRAK
CRUNCH
KRAK
He's eating...
...my...
arrow?

GL
RH
MH
BH
HH

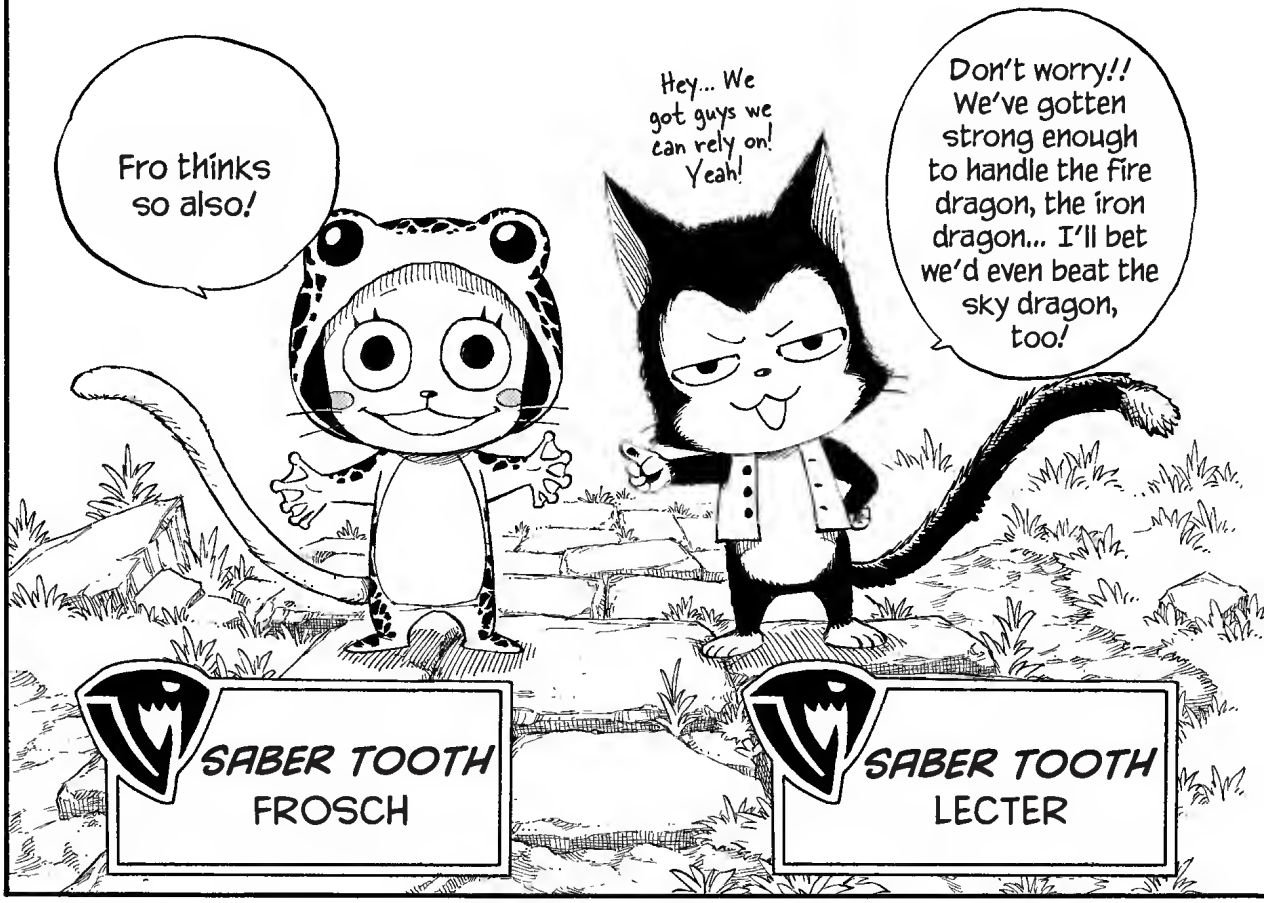
Huh? I must be under the weather. I missed.
...

Ah...
Urk...
Ah...


S-So it was them...? The...
...twin dragons of Saber Tooth...

Sting the White Dragon, and Rogue the Shadow Dragon!!!
The dragon slayer duo!!!!
SABER TOOTH
ROGUE CHENEY
SABER TOOTH
STING EUCLIFFE

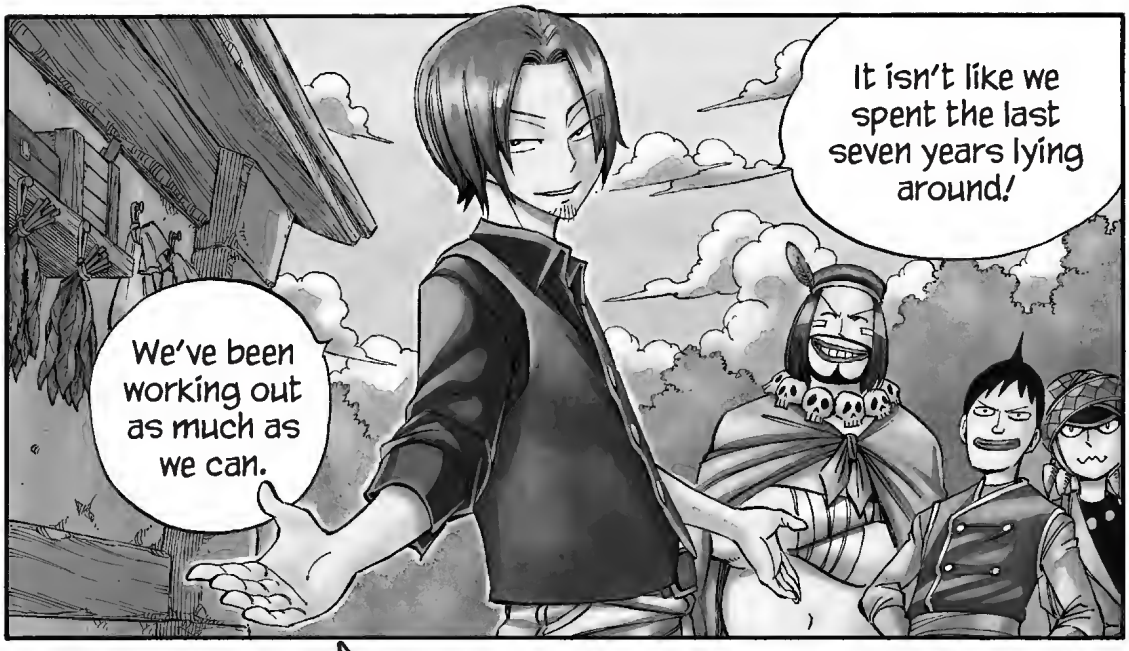
FWOOOO
Hey now!
Waaaa


Fro thinks so also!
Hey... We got guys we can rely on! Yeah!
Don't worry!! We've gotten strong enough to handle the fire dragon, the iron dragon... I'll bet we'd even beat the sky dragon, too!
SABER TOOTH
FROSCH
SABER TOOTH
LECTER

Sting, you're the greatest dragon slayer! Yeah!
SLAP!
That's right, huh?

Not interested.
Next time, let's fight *him*, huh, Rogue?
I think, the way I am now, I can definitely take down Natsu.
Fro neither!
Hey! Of course you can! Yeah!

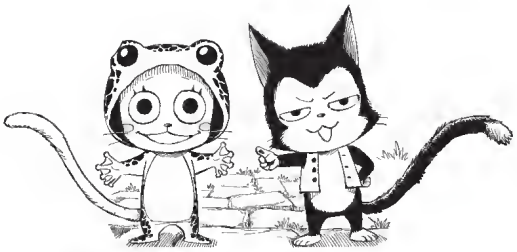
Are you... serious?
A—


It isn't like we spent the last seven years lying around!
We've been working out as much as we can.

ZOOOM
One more time!!!! Hyaah!!!!

You mean Natsu-san...
...can't even beat Max?

Chapter 259: Porlyusica



FAIRY TAIL

SHUM
SHVAM
Uwoohh !!!!
VAM
VAM
VAM
WHOOSH
SHUM
SHFFF
SSSSH
Whoa!
SAND REBELLION!

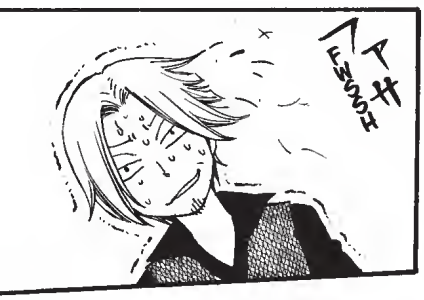
FOOOM
Now burn up!!!!
DMP
KARYÛ NO*...
KOFF KOFF
WAH!
Natsu, hang in there!
Wait a minute ...
*Fire Dragon's
SAND WALL !!!!
ZUGAAASSH
BOFF
...TEKKEN* !!!!
*Iron Fist

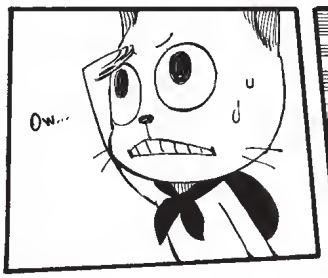
*Thunder-Fire Dragon Mode

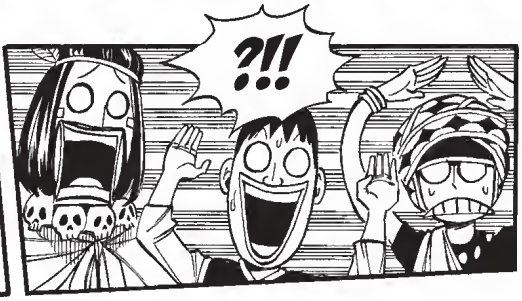
*Thunder-Fire Dragon's

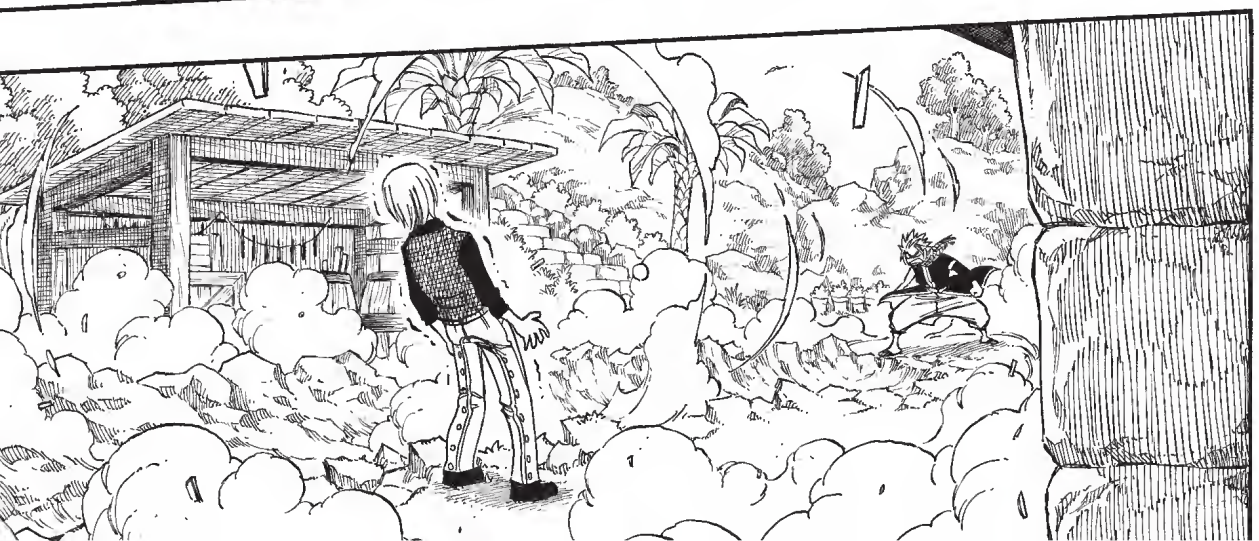
**Roar

KABAM BAM BAM BAM BAM


FWOOSH


Ow...

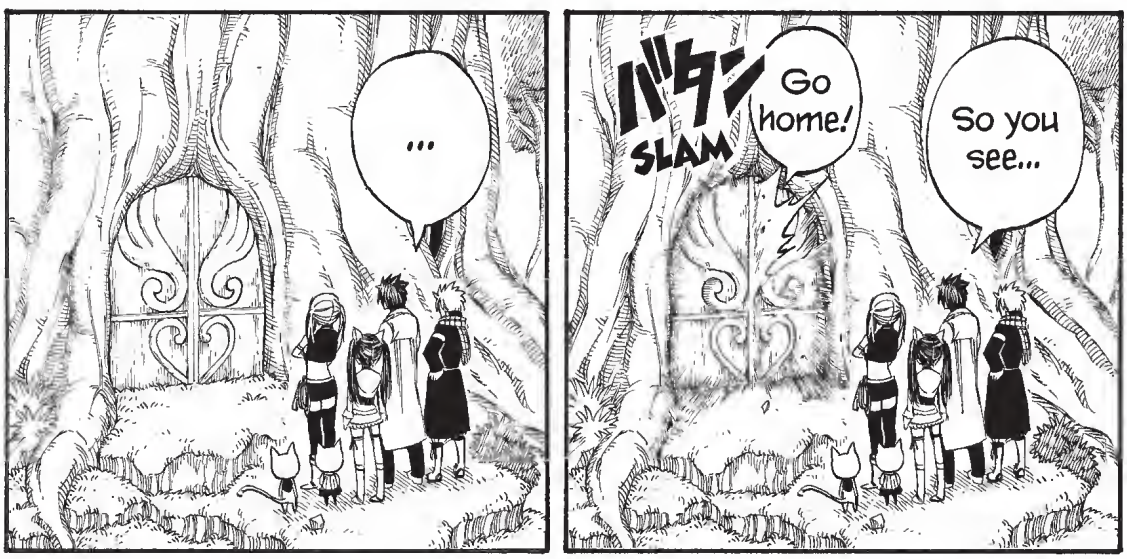

?!!



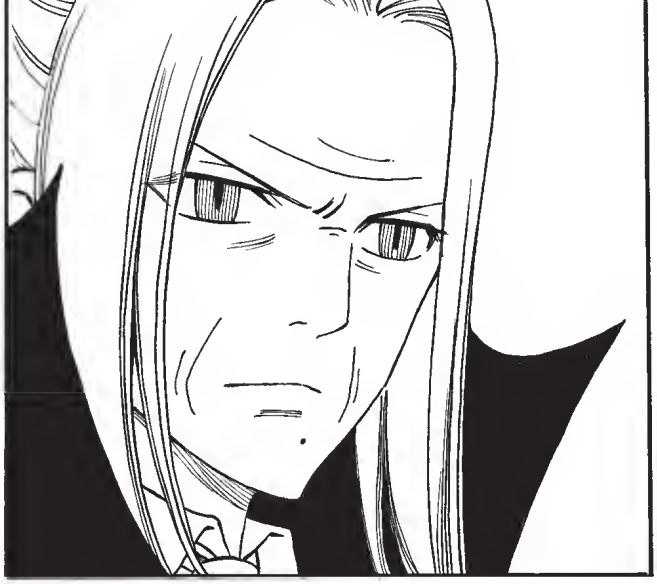
Since when can you do that whenever you want?
Dammit!! I can't put out the power I did back then!
Since right now.
Amazing ...
A-all right, man. I give up.
If I took that head on, I'd die!
Who's next?
GLARE
He's a monster !!!
He really is strong !!!!
EEEE !!!
Kaaha haha!
But Max, you were incredible!
You don't have to flatter me, Wendy.
I knew it. He's used up an overwhelming amount of magic.
Natsu... You probably shouldn't use that in a real fight.
WHAMP

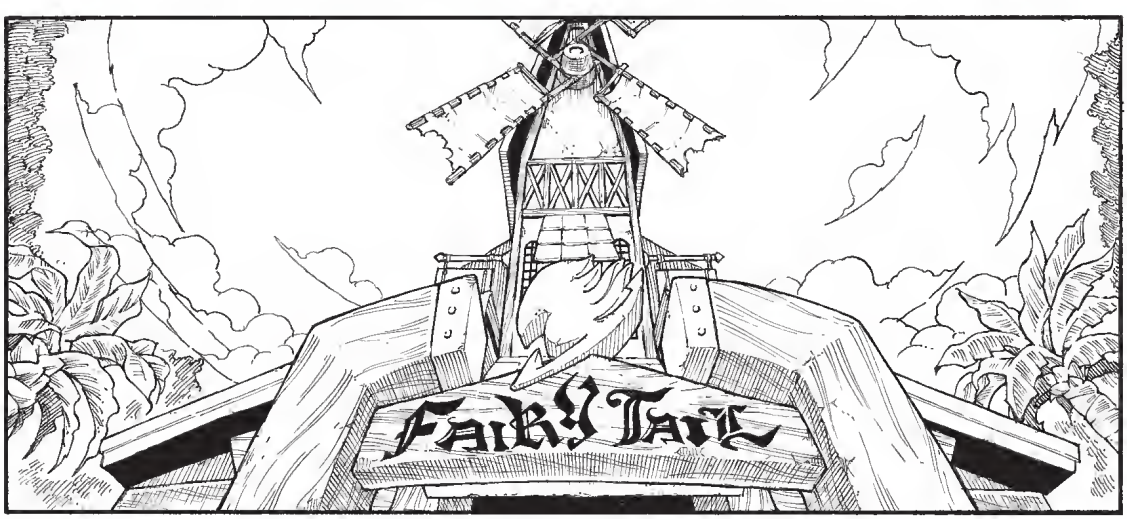
...That's true.
Master and the others *did* solve it that way, though.
Those can't be solved with power alone.
Well, there were money problems too.
That may be true, but...
But if he'd had that kind of power, then the guild wouldn't have let Ogre push them around.
Leave aside the guys who are already monsters like Gildarts and Laxus...
...and the power that we have at the moment hasn't kept pace with the times.
Still, we've got a bigger problem than I figured.
Gray!
I wonder if there is some way we can raise our magical abilities in one big shot.
Hmm...
So what she said *really was* flattery?!!
Yeah, *that* Max.
It's true... Here Natsu had a hard time with somebody like Max.

FAIRY TAIL
CONSULTING
MEDICAL EXPERT
PORLYUSICA


...
バタン
SLAM
Go home!
So you see...

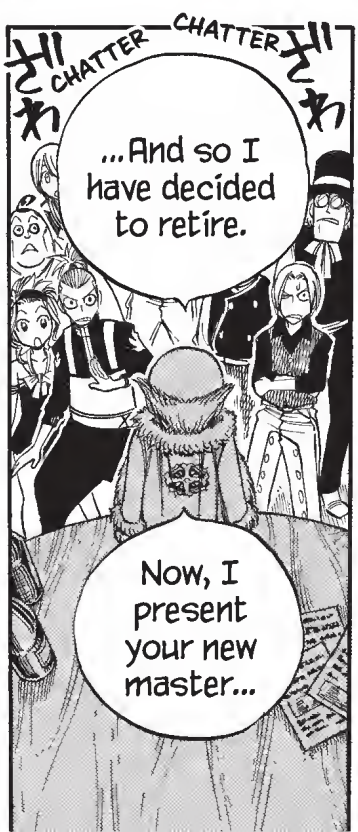
Nothing ...
...
What's wrong, Wendy?
I figured it was too much to expect.
Yeah, something to make us, like, instantly a hundred times stronger?
Wouldn't Porlyusica have some kind of medicine?
Go away!! Go home!!!
Shoo!! Shoo!!!
I hate you humans !!!!
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
Eeeeeeeee!
Oh! ♡
KACHIK
Excuse us!
What's with that old lady?!
Weren't she and the old man an item long ago—
Of course not, you dolt!!!!
BONK
ZOOM

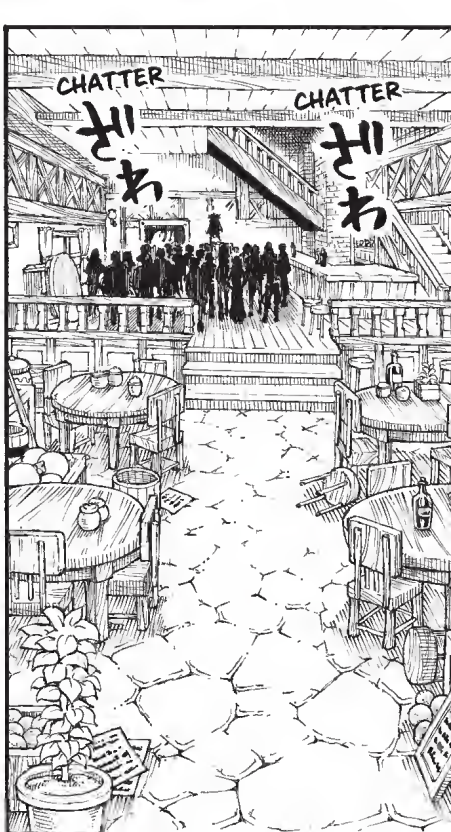


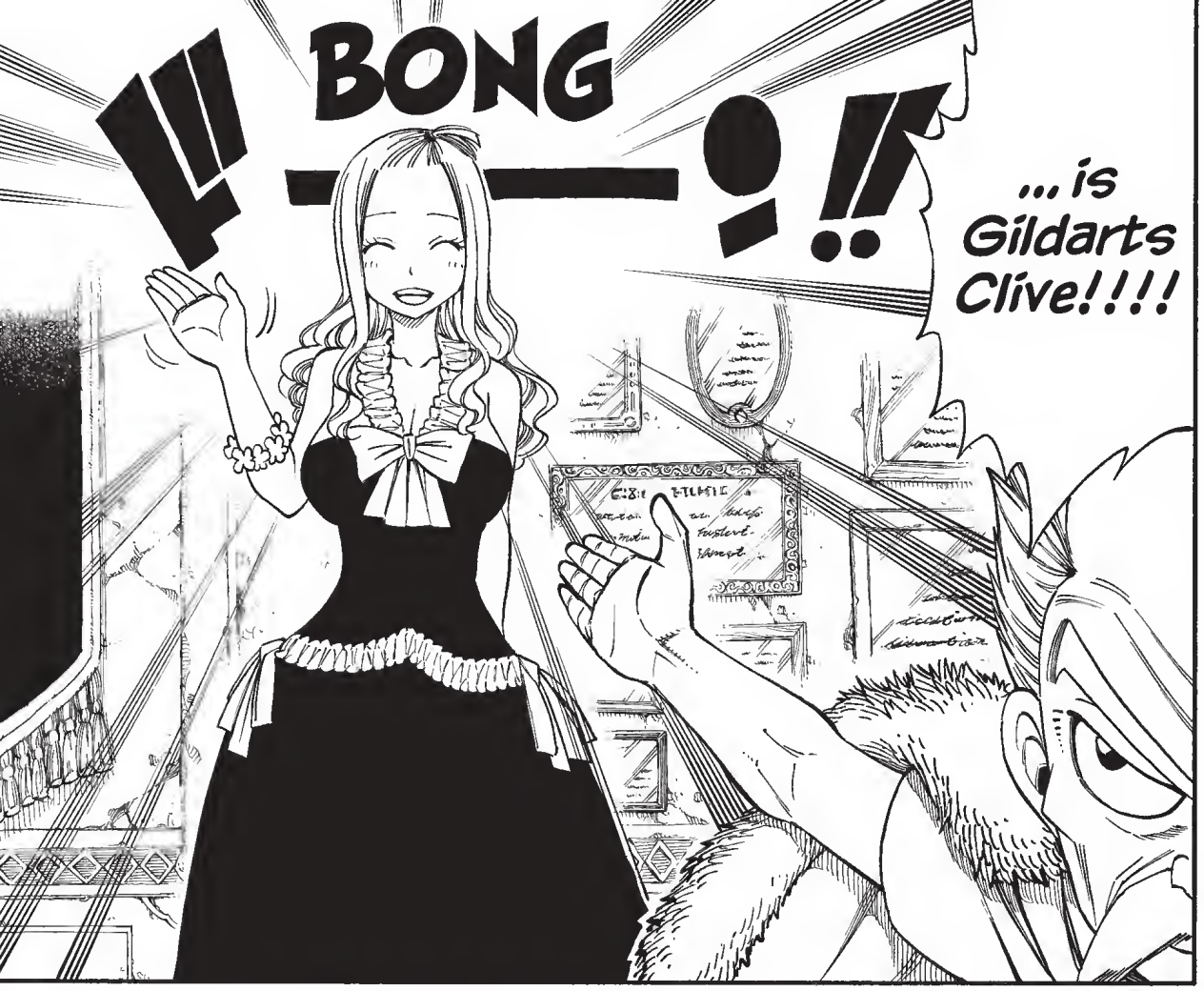

FAIRY TAIL

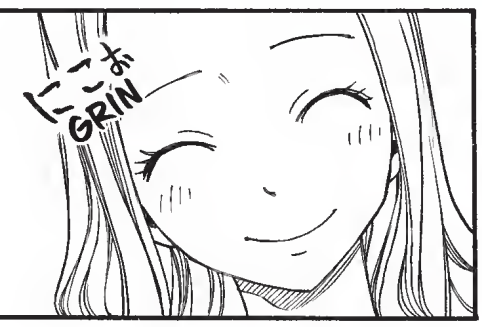
It ain't gonna be you!
Wait a second! I'm not really prepared...
Is he serious?
SHAK
6

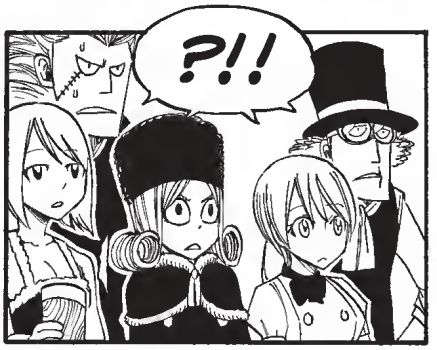
WHOOSH
The fifth master of Fairy Tail...

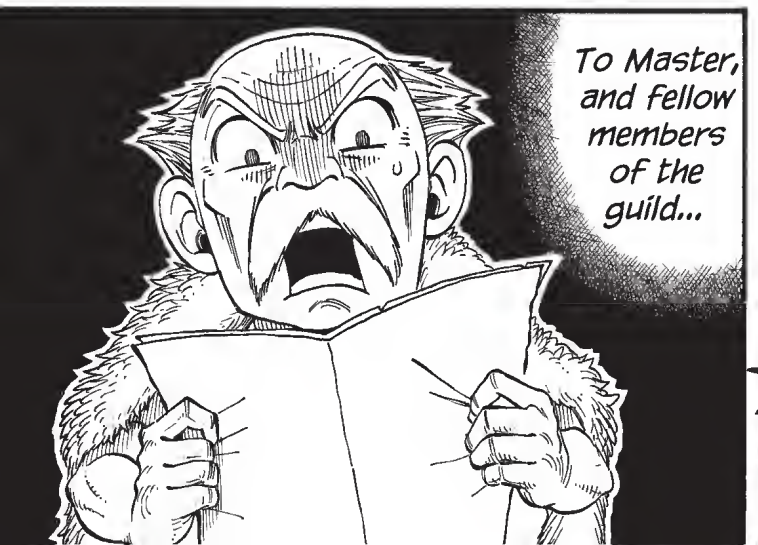

CHATTER
CHATTER
...And so I have decided to retire.
Now, I present your new master...

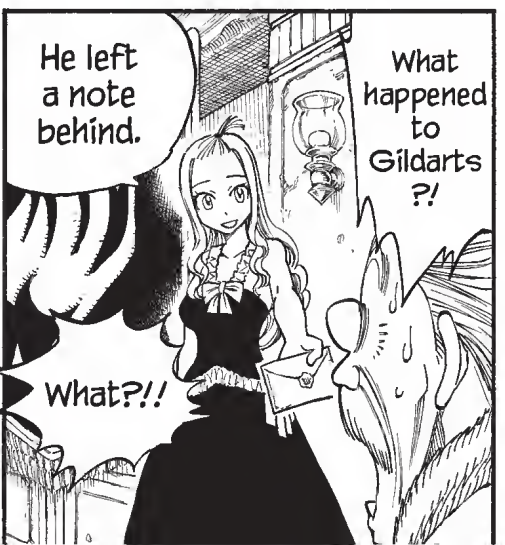

CHATTER
CHATTER

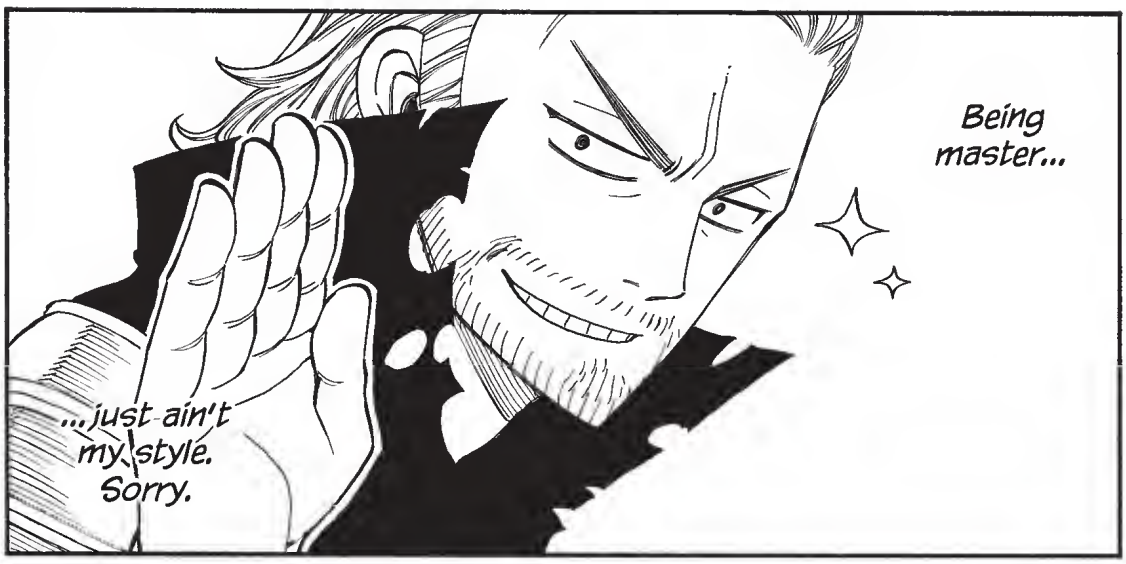

BONG
...is Gildarts Clive!!!!


GRIN

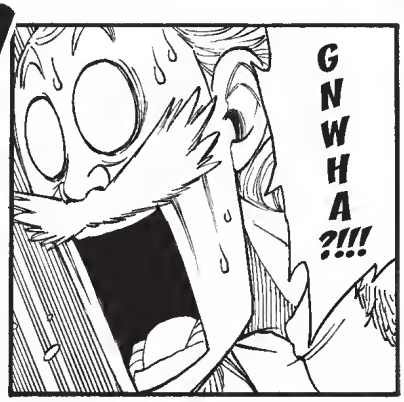

?!!

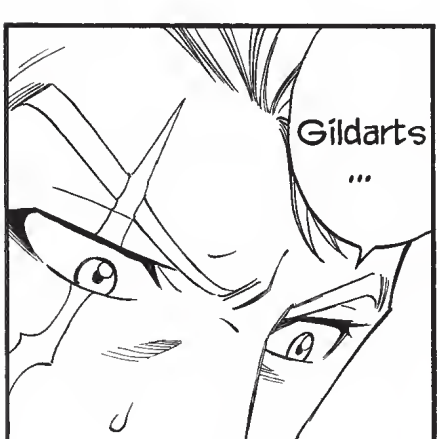

To Master, and fellow members of the guild...

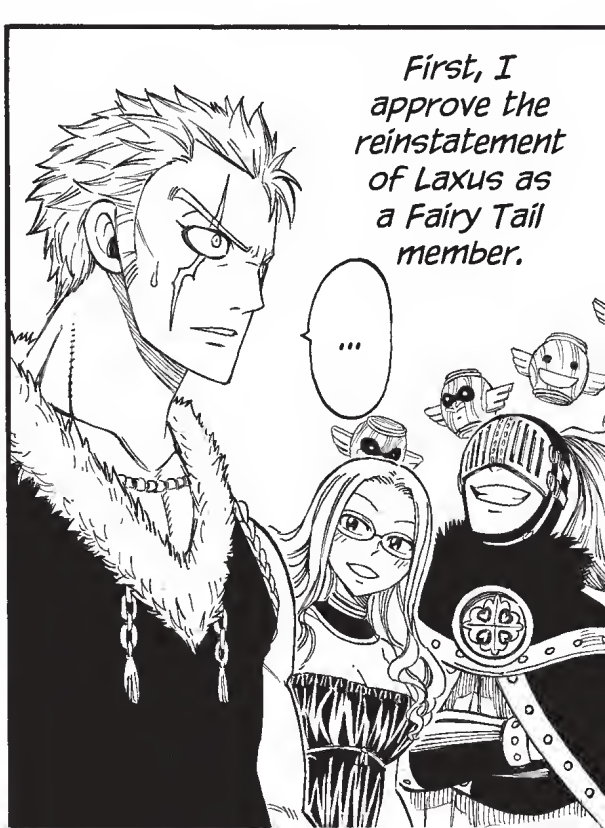

He left a note behind.
What happened to Gildarts ?!
What?!!

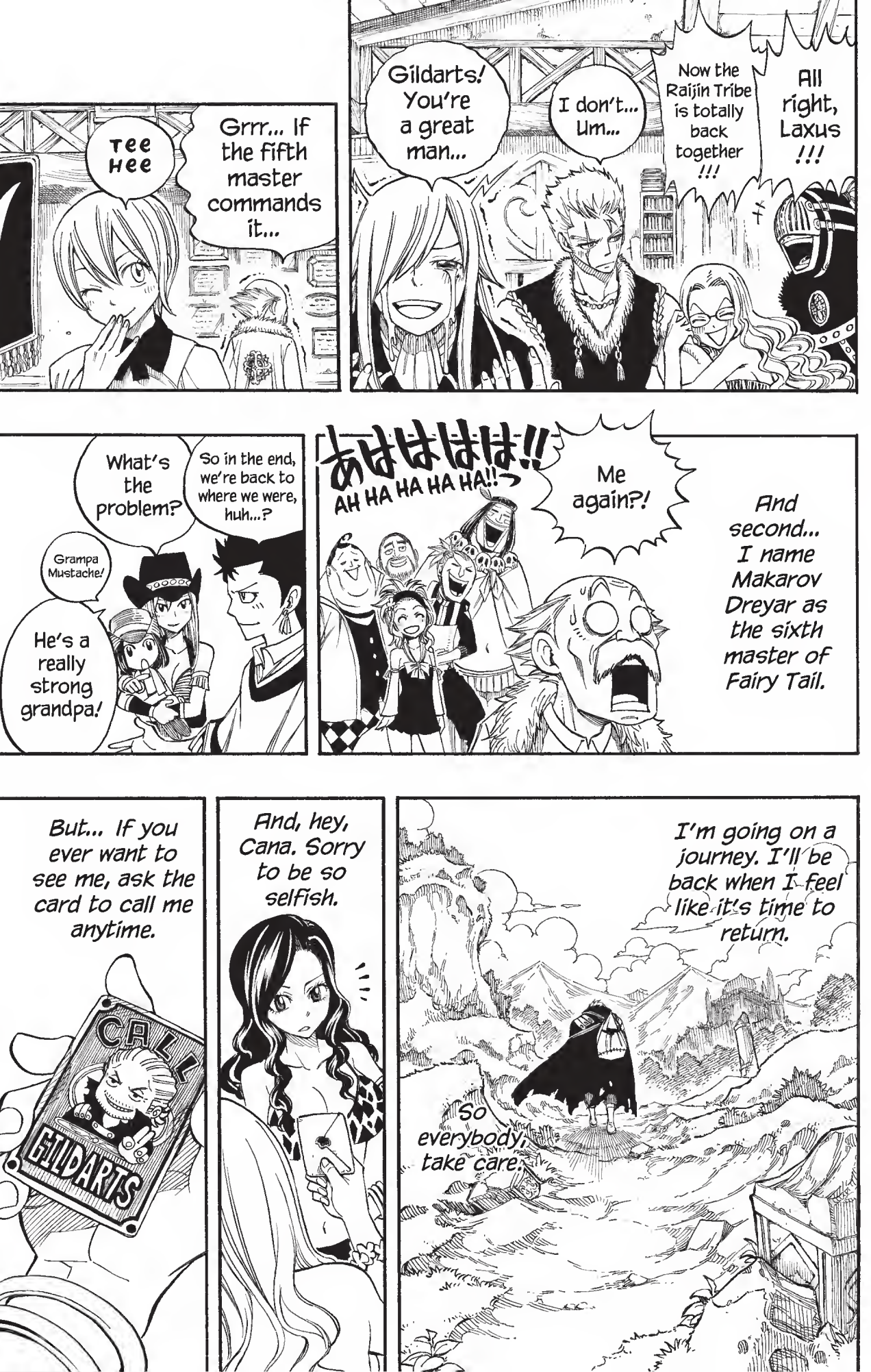


But, what the hey. As the fifth master of Fairy Tail, there are a couple of things I will order...

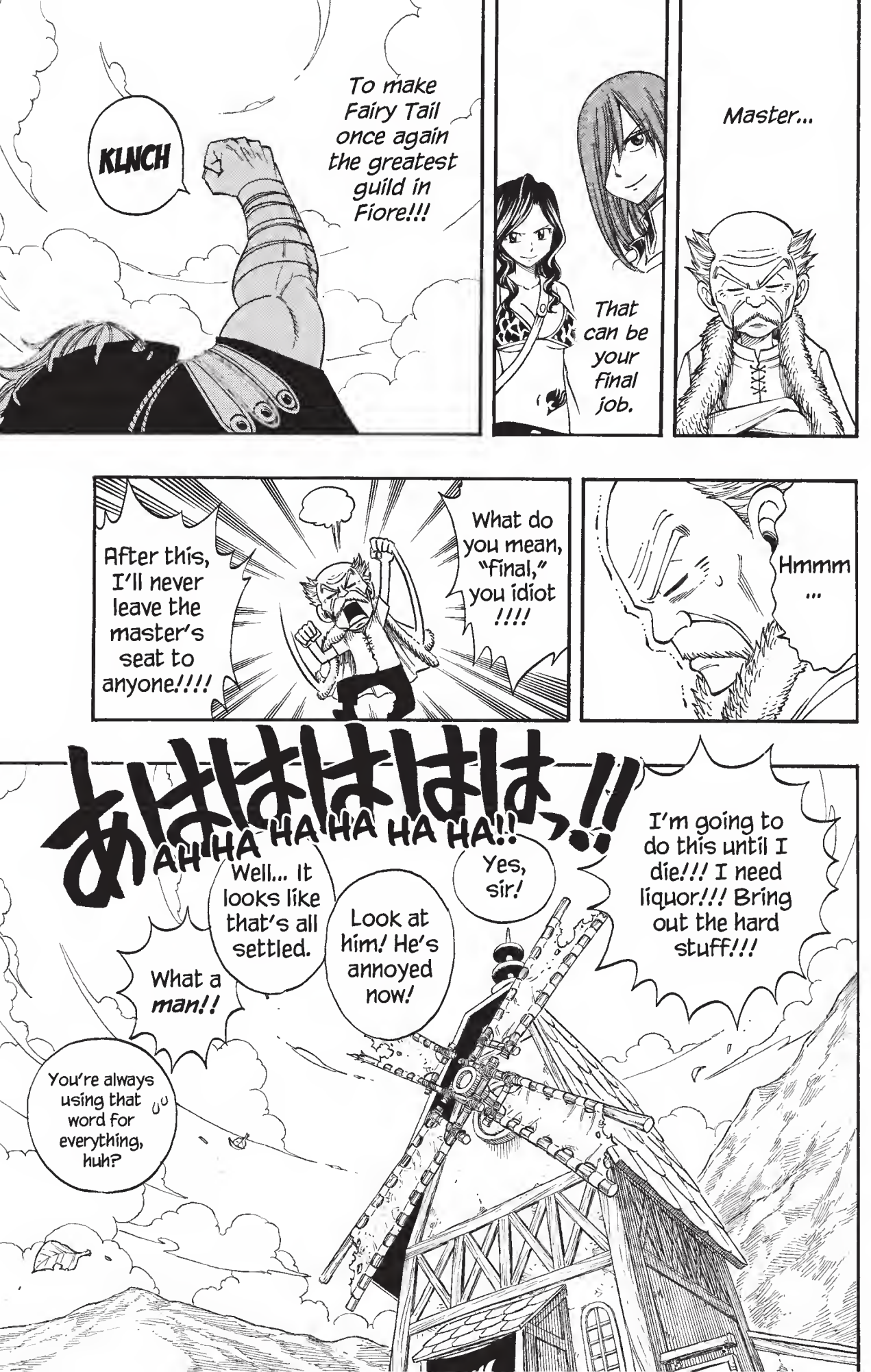


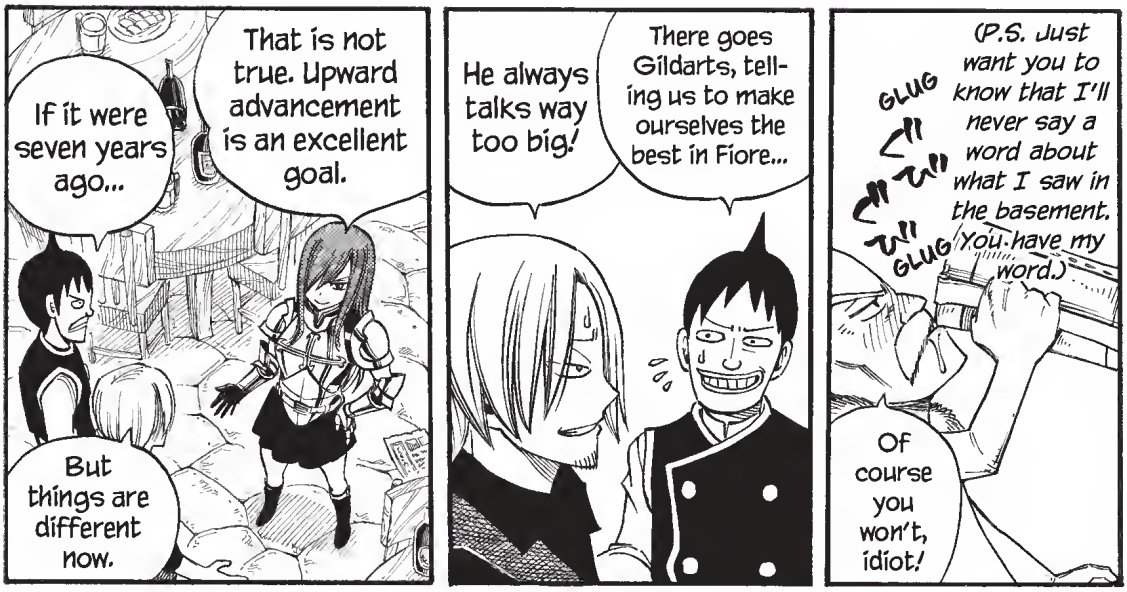


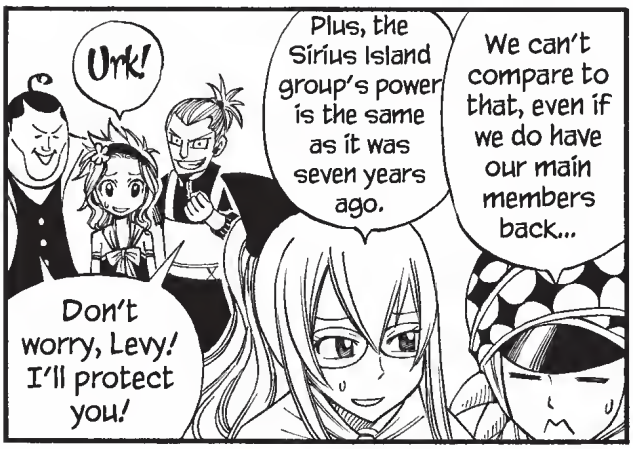


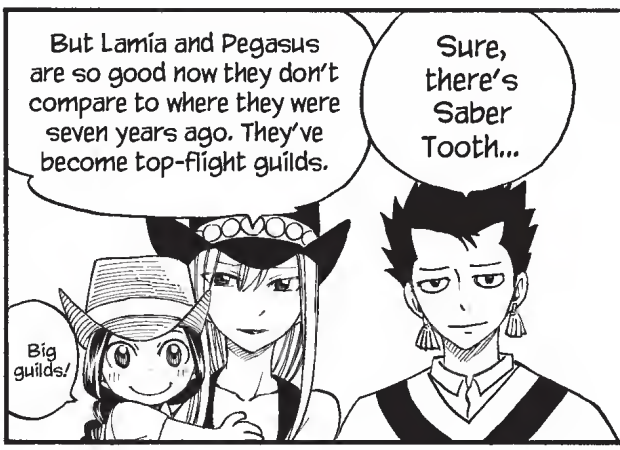

Tee Hee
Grrr... If the fifth master commands it...
Gildarts! You're a great man...
I don't... Um...
Now the Raijin Tribe is totally back together !!!
All right, Laxus !!!
What's the problem?
So in the end, we're back to where we were, huh...?
Grampa Mustache!
He's a really strong grandpa!
あはははは!!
AH HA HA HA HA!!
Me again?!
And second... I name Makarov Dreyar as the sixth master of Fairy Tail.
But... If you ever want to see me, ask the card to call me anytime.
CALL
GILDARTS
And, hey, Cana. Sorry to be so selfish.
I'm going on a journey. I'll be back when I feel like it's time to return.
So everybody, take care.

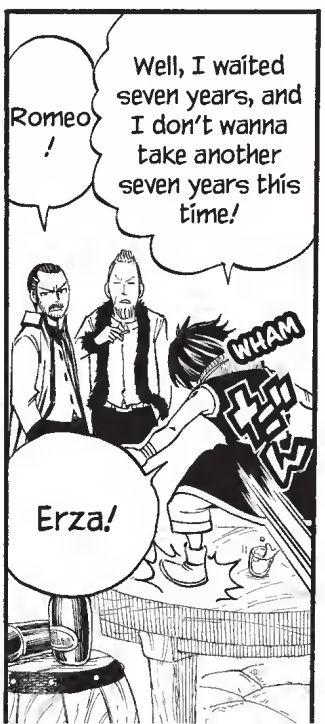
Come on, old guy! I told you that I want us to be the way we always were!
Cana !!
RIP
No way!
It's connected to a card I've got, and I'll be right there—
Fairy Tail is my home.
So I'll be back.
It's yours.
But it isn't my place to do that.
...I'll be hoping that Fairy Tail can become the No. 1 guild in Fiore again.
And until then...

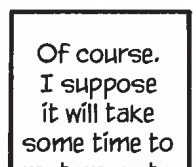

KLNCH
To make Fairy Tail once again the greatest guild in Fiore!!!
That can be your final job.
Master...
After this, I'll never leave the master's seat to anyone!!!!
What do you mean, "final," you idiot !!!!
Hmmm ...
あはははははっ!!
AH HA HA HA HA HA!!
I'm going to do this until I die!!! I need liquor!!! Bring out the hard stuff!!!
Yes, sir!
Look at him! He's annoyed now!
Well... It looks like that's all settled.
What a man!!
You're always using that word for everything, huh?

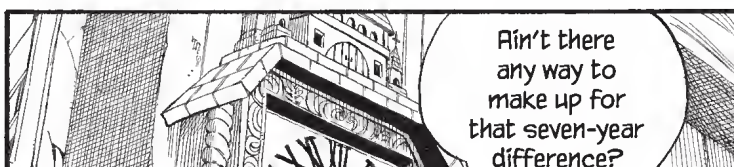

That is not true. Upward advancement is an excellent goal.
If it were seven years ago...
But things are different now.
There goes Gildarts, telling us to make ourselves the best in Fiore...
He always talks way too big!
(P.S. Just want you to know that I'll never say a word about what I saw in the basement. You have my word.)
GLUG
GLUG
Of course you won't, idiot!


We can't compare to that, even if we do have our main members back...
Plus, the Sirius Island group's power is the same as it was seven years ago.
Urk!
Don't worry, Levy! I'll protect you!

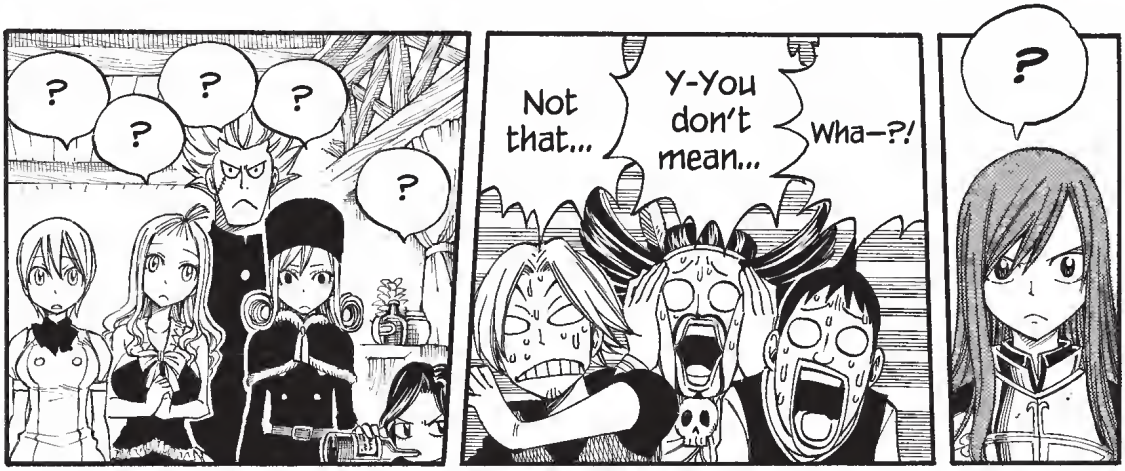

But Lamia and Pegasus are so good now they don't compare to where they were seven years ago. They've become top-flight guilds.
Sure, there's Saber Tooth...
Big guilds!


Well, I waited seven years, and I don't wanna take another seven years this time!
Romeo!
WHAM
Erza!

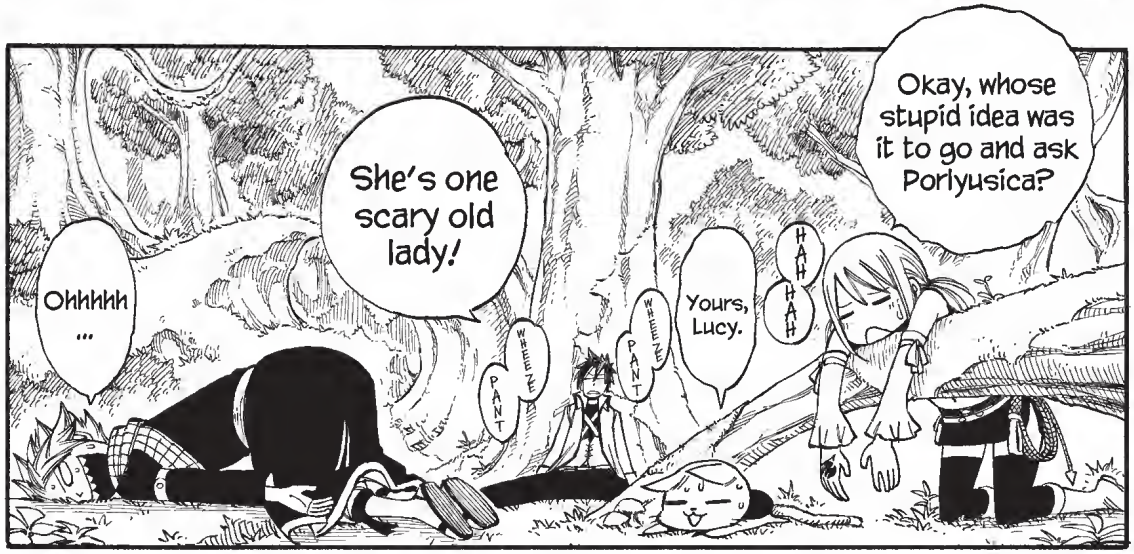

Of course. I suppose it will take some time to restore us to what we were.


Ain't there any way to make up for that seven-year difference?
When considering the magic power of each individual, and even the combined power of the guild, "Best in Fiore" doesn't seem...

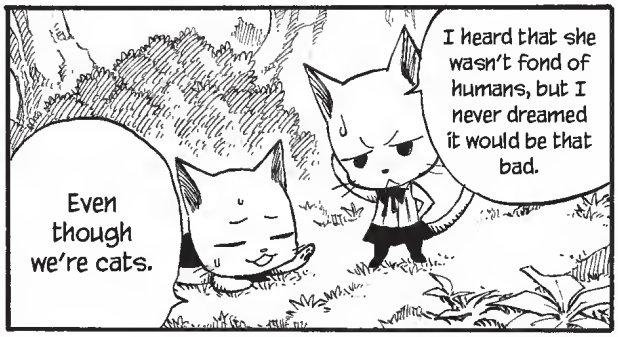
If you're looking to get us to No. 1 quick...
...there's just one way!!!!


?
?
?
?
?
Not that...
Y-You don't mean...
Wha—?!
?

What do you mean, Fourth Master?
Could you stop calling me that, Sixth Master?
We already decided we'd never participate !!!!
No !!!!

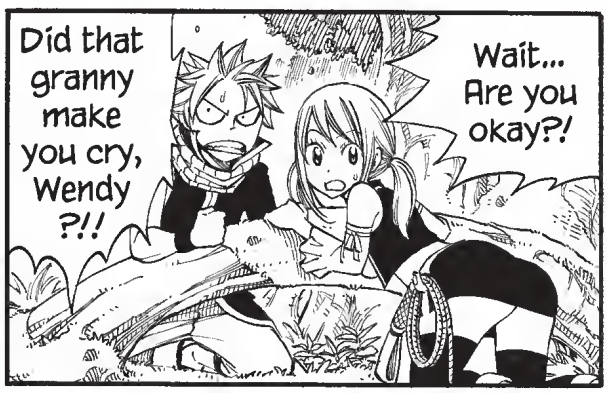

Okay, whose stupid idea was it to go and ask Porlyusica?
HAH HAH
Yours, Lucy.
WHIMPER
PANT
She's one scary old lady!
WHIMPER
PANT
Ohhhhh ...

!
What's wrong, Wendy? Did she scare you?


I heard that she wasn't fond of humans, but I never dreamed it would be that bad.
Even though we're cats.

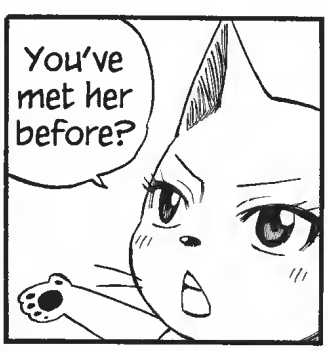
SNIFF

No...
It felt so much like *home*...


Did that granny make you cry, Wendy ?!!
Wait... Are you okay?!

No... I'm sure this was the first time I met her, but...
...she just reminds me...

?!


You've met her before?

Her... voice... Her smell...
...is just like Grand-eeney!

FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL

Name: Alzack Connel Age: 25

Magic: Guns Magic

Likes: Bisca, Asuka Dislikes: Spicy foods

Chapter 260: And We're Going to Aim for the Top

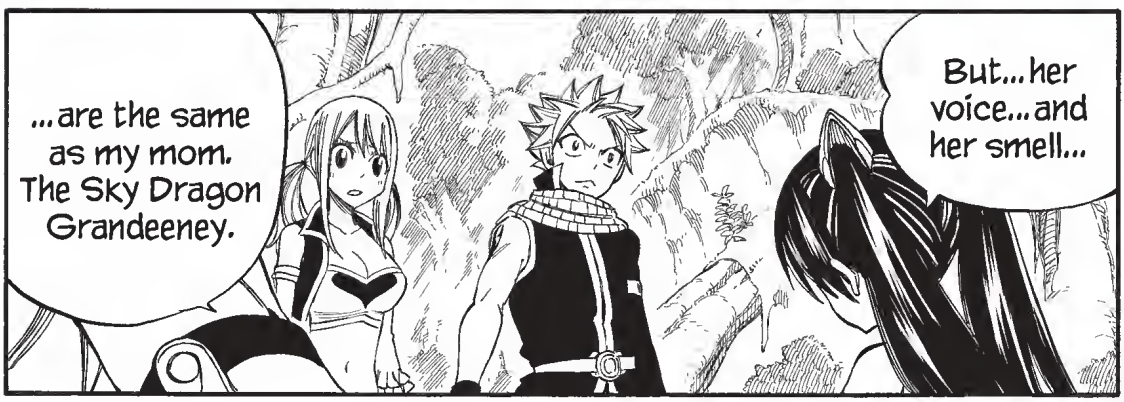
Remarks

Seven years earlier he fell in love with Bisca, but he could never find the right time to tell her. In X785, they were finally married after Bisca became pregnant. It was Bisca who proposed. Their daughter's name, Asuka, comes from Alzack's "A" sound and Bisca's "ka" sound. He loves his daughter so much that the very sight of her can make his wounds stop hurting, and he brings her to the guild building often. Everyone in the guild loves Asuka. After seven years, his abilities have improved quite a lot, and before the Sirius Island group returned, he was one of the top-class wizards in the guild.

What is that supposed to mean?
You're saying that old lady is *Grand-eeney?*
How should I know?
She has the same voice as the dragon you're searching for?

I don't know...

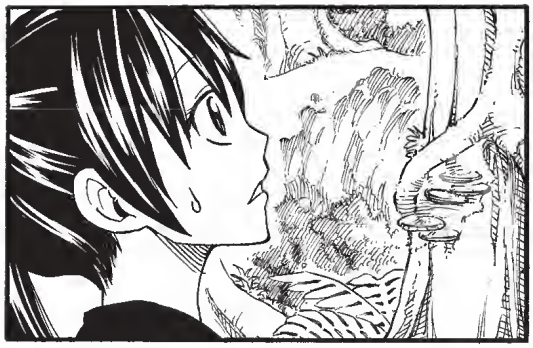
Sniff...
Wendy, is this true?


...are the same as my mom. The Sky Dragon Grandeeney.
But...her voice...and her smell...

...don't you think it's a bit weird?
Even if she is Grandeeney in human form...
Wait!
It looks like I'll have to go back and do some checking!!
But Porlyusica and the master knew each other for years and years before that.
Or, actually, fourteen years ago.
The year 777.
That's right! Natsu and Wendy...
And Gajeel too, by the way.
...said that, if I remember right, your dragons vanished seven years ago...
So it doesn't make sense...
...that they'd be the same person.
400 YEARS
400 YEARS
THE OLD DAYS
Porlyusica's Existence
Dragons' Existence
In other words, the dragons existed at the same Porlyusica did.

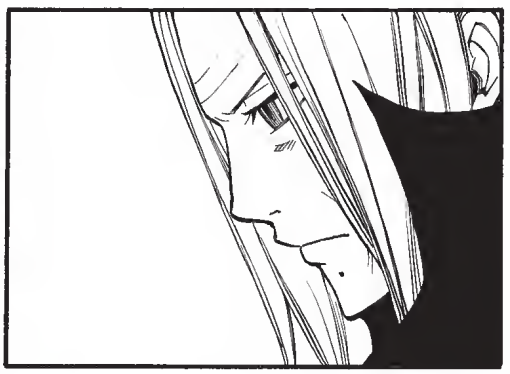
Hm...
? ? ?
It'd be too much of a stretch to say that they're connected through rebirth or possession.
Her voice and smell are the same, but the things she says and her attitude are completely different.
Sure, when I think about it calmly for a bit, it does seem strange.
Not after seeing Acnologia.
It's kind of hard to imagine a kind dragon.
Grandeeney was always a very kind dragon.
Igneel was a nice guy too.
And I distinctly remember you saying before that Grandeeney *likes* humans.
I hope Grandeeney doesn't *hate* cats!

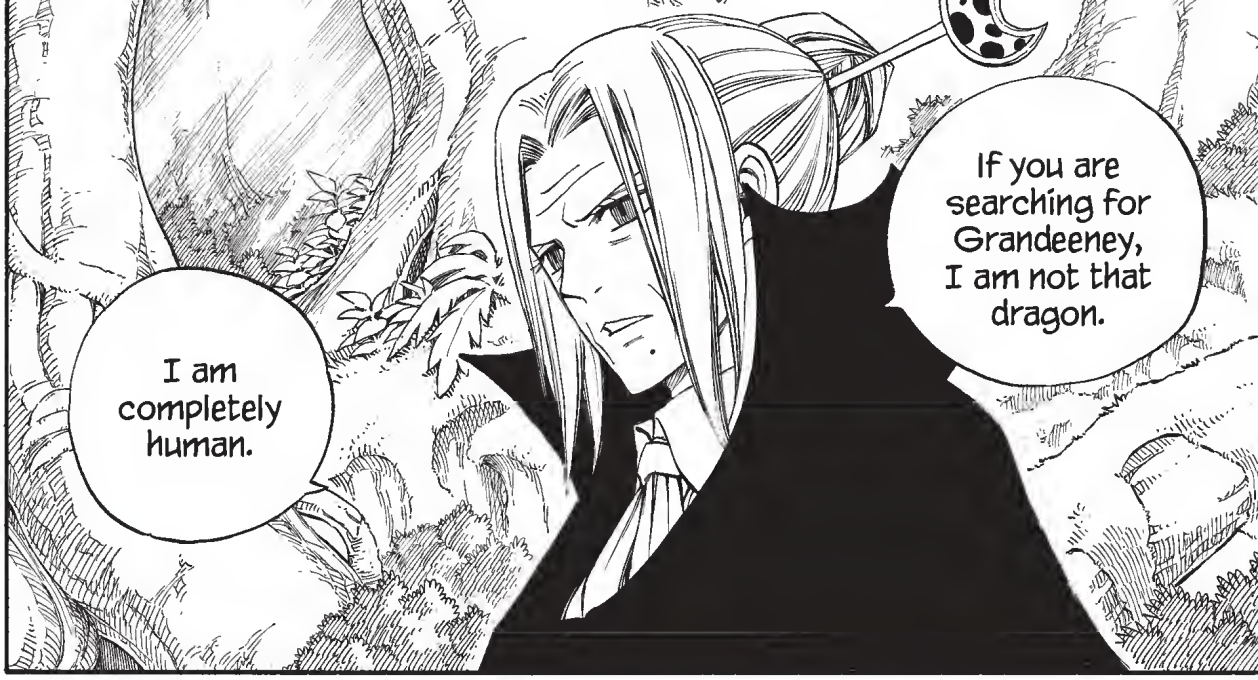
TWITCH!!!
Well, excuse me for not being nice.
ZUUM

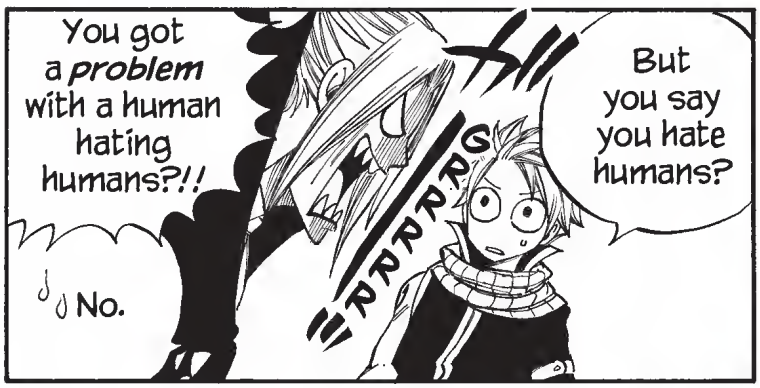


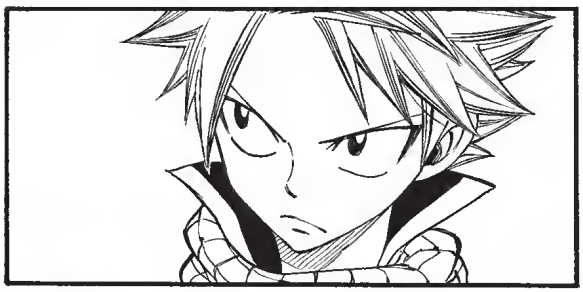
You scared us!
Porly-usica-san?

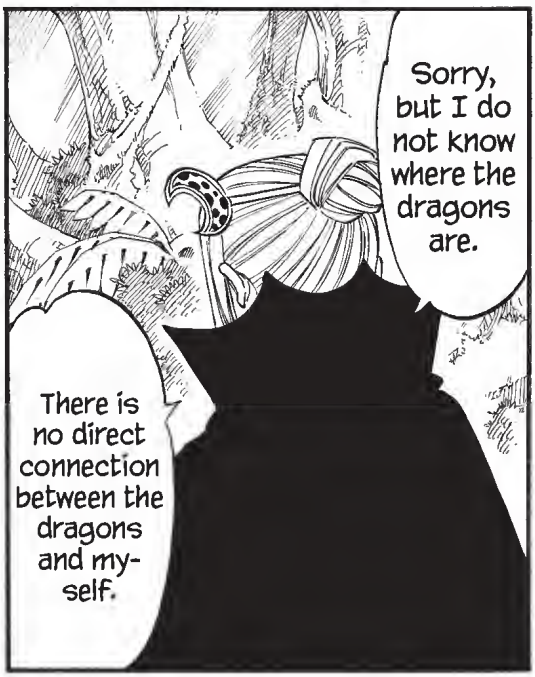
I don't have to hide it.
So I will share my secret with you.

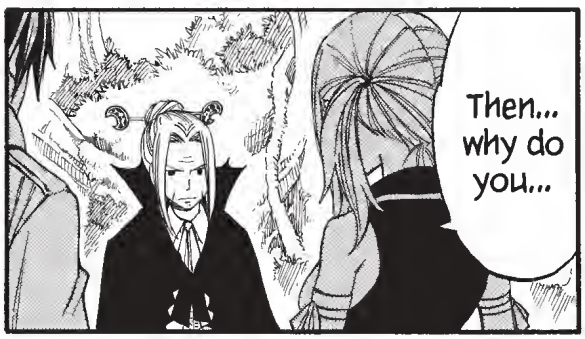


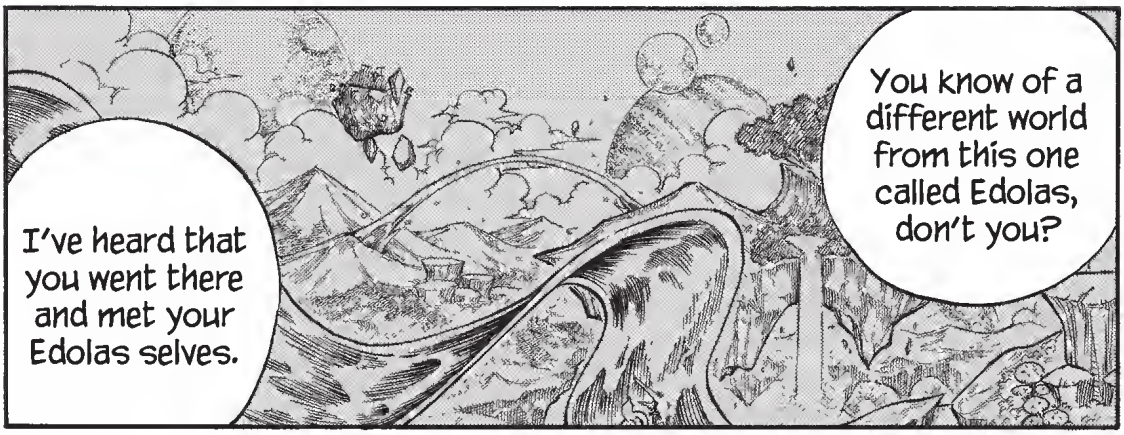

If you are searching for Grandeeney, I am not that dragon.
I am completely human.

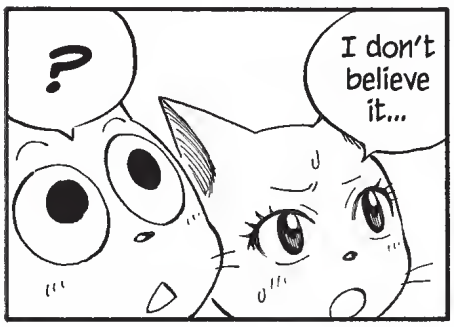

You got a *problem* with a human hating humans?!!
♪♪ No.
GRRRRRG
But you say you hate humans?



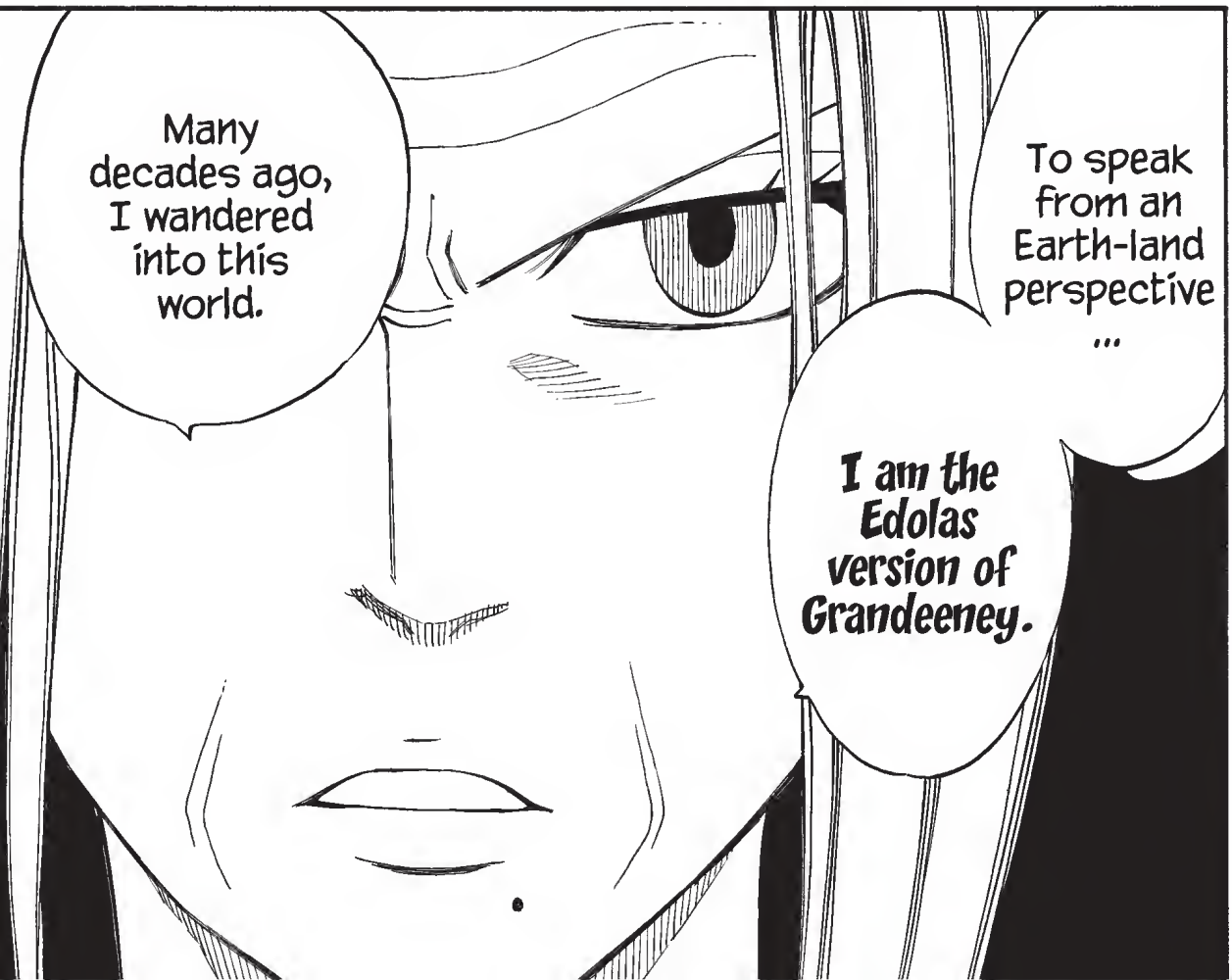

Sorry, but I do not know where the dragons are.
There is no direct connection between the dragons and myself.


Then... why do you...


You know of a different world from this one called Edolas, don't you?
I've heard that you went there and met your Edolas selves.


?
I don't believe it...

Eh? What?
You're kidding...
What? Edolas...?


Many decades ago, I wandered into this world.
To speak from an Earth-land perspective ...
I am the Edolas version of Grandeeney.

...
Over there, Grand-eeney was a human?
Edo-Grand-eeney?
WAAAAM?!!
I had quite a few chances to return to Edolas, but I always chose to remain here.
And I found myself falling in love with Earth-land.
Makarov happened along and helped me...
I cannot say. I have never met them.
Or are they here?!
Hold it! Does that mean that there are humans in Edolas who are Igneel or Metalicana?
SHIFF
I never met the creature. It used magic or some other force to speak directly into my mind.
What?!
But... I have spoken with the Sky Dragon.

You said you wish to become stronger, did you not?

I may have a method, for Wendy alone.

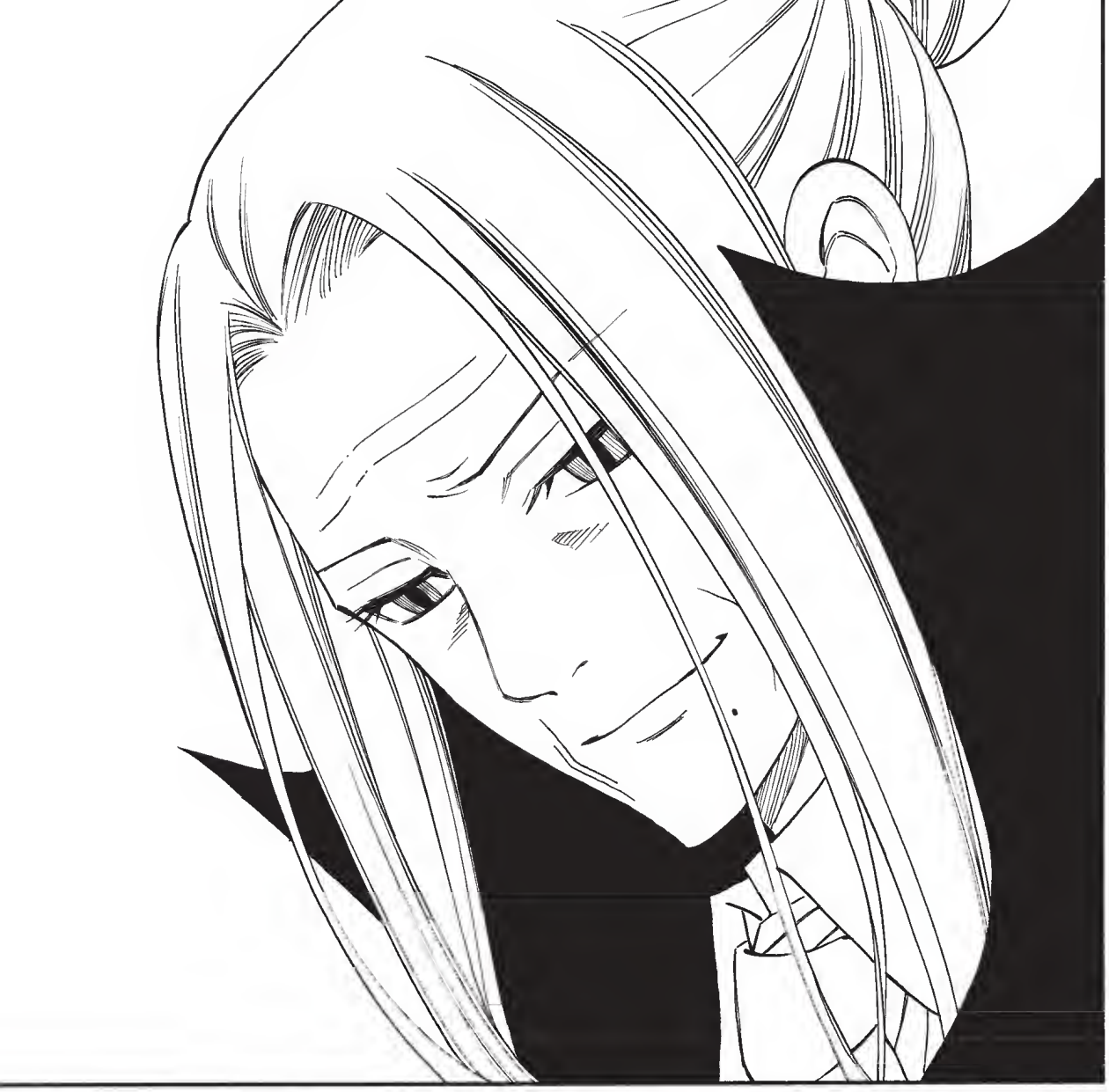
It is a book of magic that I wrote exactly as the Sky Dragon related it to me.

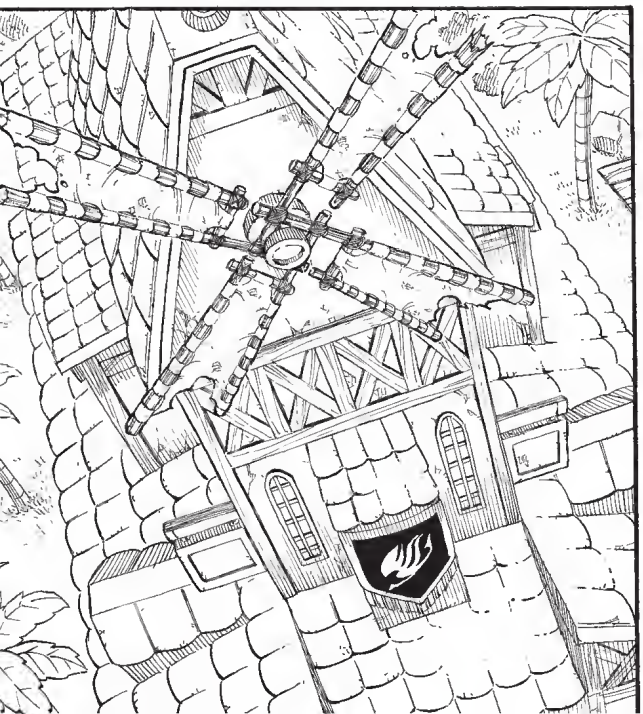
*Flare Burst: Sky Drill

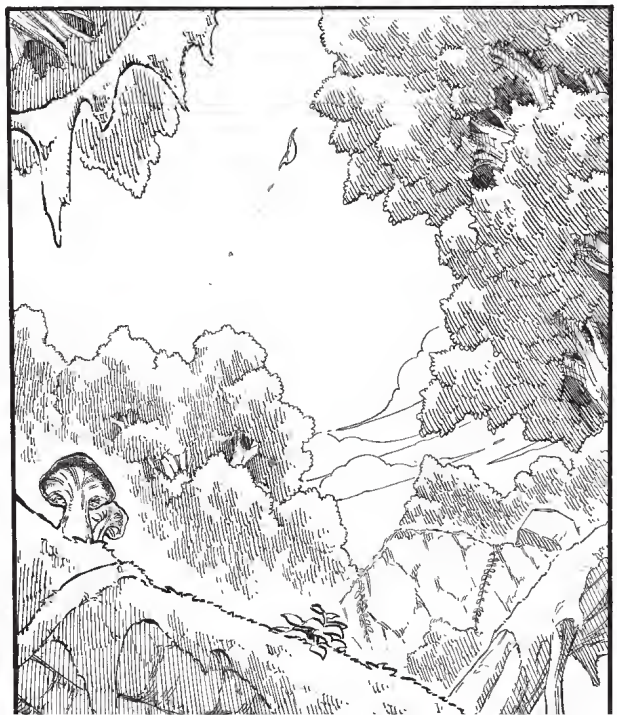
It contains two of the sky magics, ***Milky Way*** and, ***Shôha: Tenkûsen.****

Two dragon slayer ultimate techniques the dragon did not have a chance to teach you, I'm told.

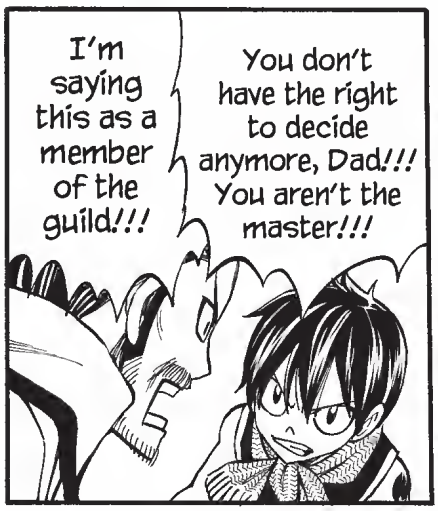
That magic seems quite difficult to master.
Try not to injure yourself.
I was asked to turn it over to you, were you ever to come see me.
Grand-eeney left this for me...?
Thank you so much, Porlyusica-san!!!
ペコリッ
BOW
TMP
Grand-eeney !!!!

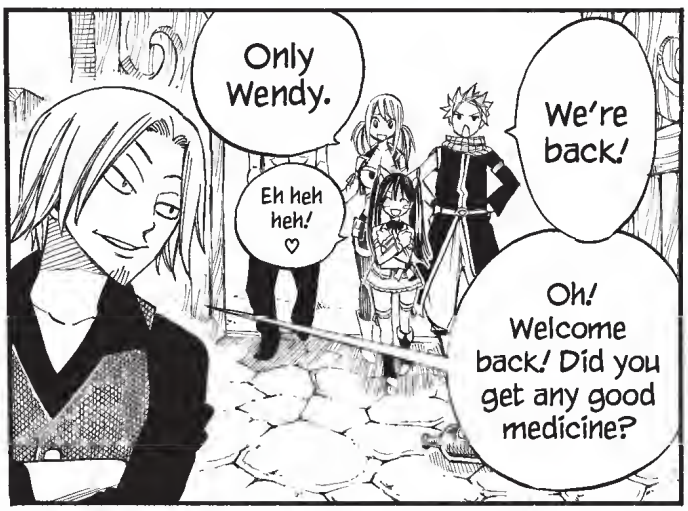


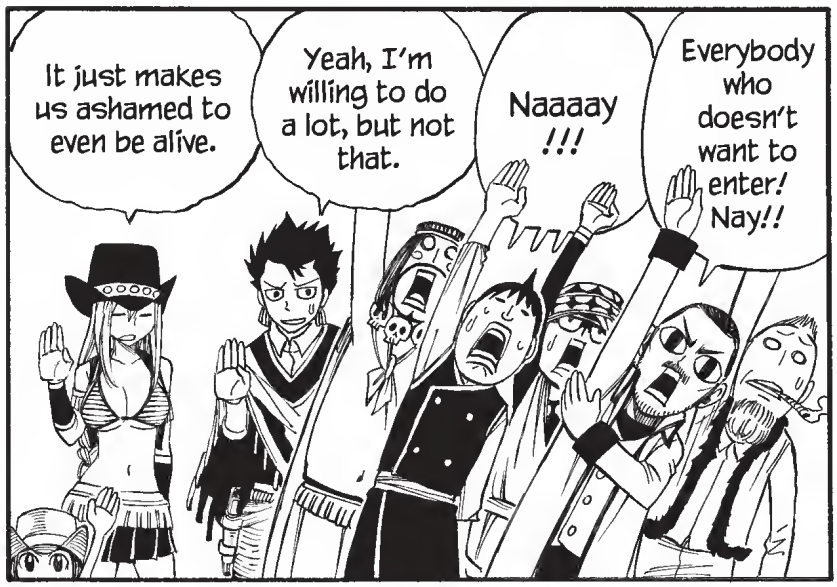




I refuse to allow it!!!! I am against entering into that thing even one more time!!!!
We're not! We're not!! We're not!!! We're not!!!!
We are! We are!! We are!!! We are!!!!
We *are* going to enter !!!!

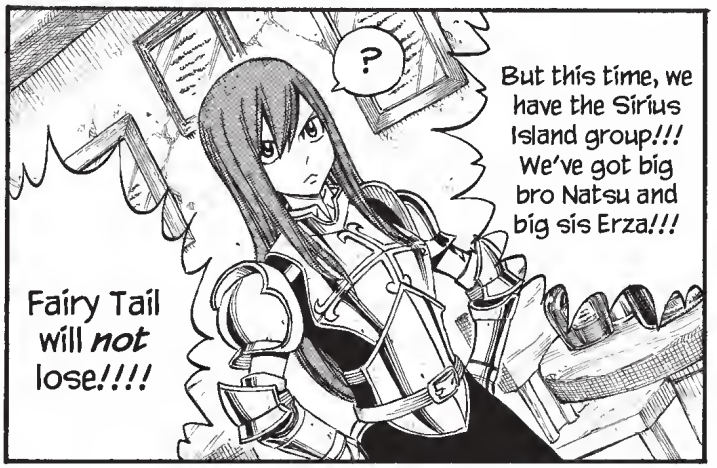

I'm saying this as a member of the guild!!!
You don't have the right to decide anymore, Dad!!! You aren't the master!!!

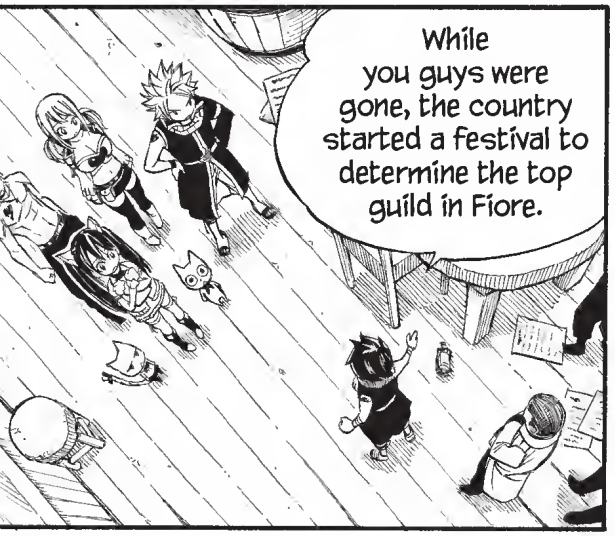

Only Wendy.
Eh heh heh! ♡
We're back!
Oh! Welcome back! Did you get any good medicine?


It just makes us ashamed to even be alive.
Yeah, I'm willing to do a lot, but not that.
Naaaay !!!
Everybody who doesn't want to enter! Nay!!

Nothing more than a father-son fight from the looks of it.
What's the fuss about?
Your shirt!

But the Sirius Island group lost *seven whole years.*
Um...
Levy, you're perfect just as you are!


?
But this time, we have the Sirius Island group!!! We've got big bro Natsu and big sis Erza!!!
Fairy Tail will *not* lose!!!!

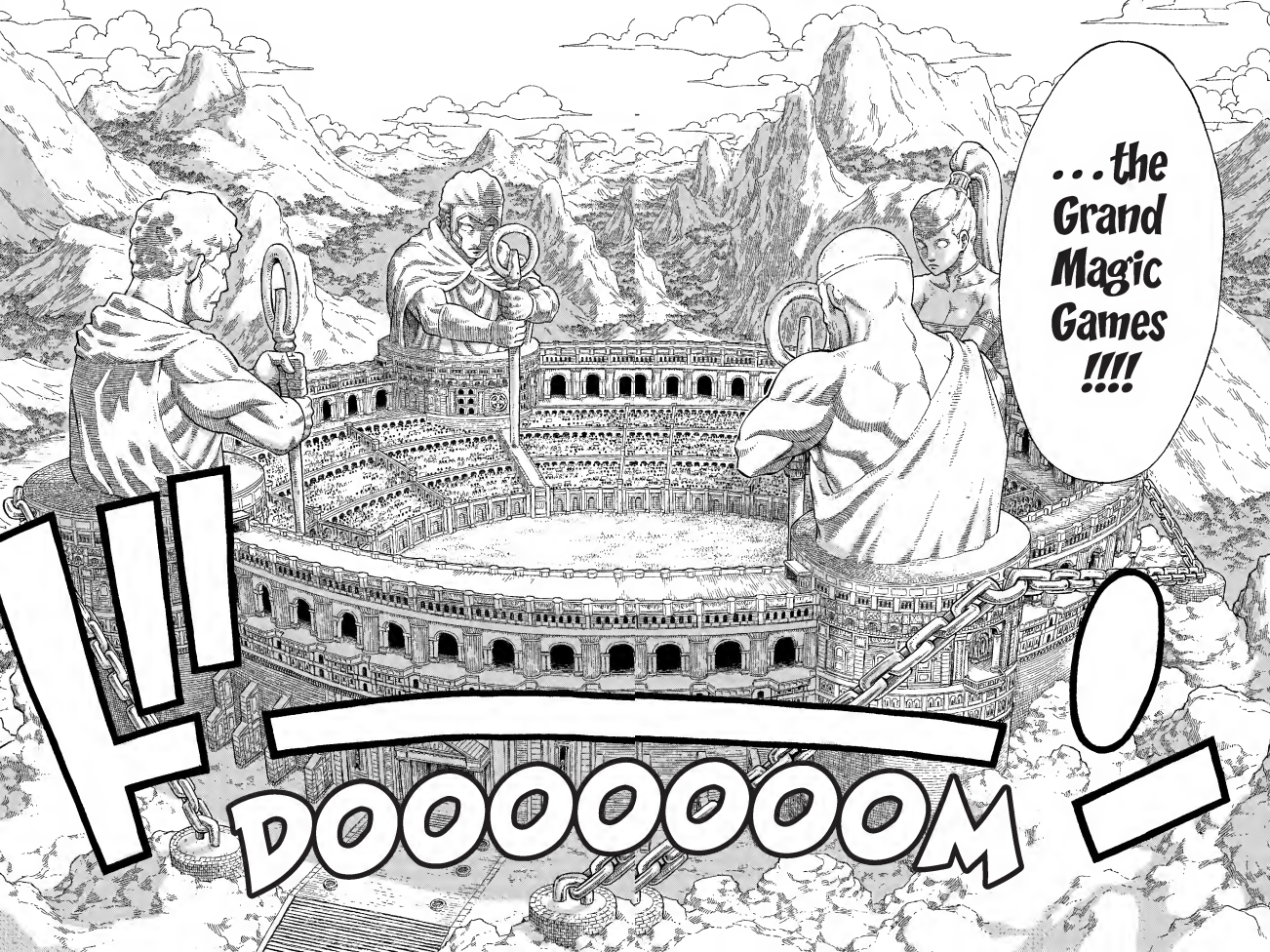

While you guys were gone, the country started a festival to determine the top guild in Fiore.

I don't think you're talking about Lucy's bathroom after she's taken a
Don't you *dare* talk about that in public!!
Everyone keeps arguing about entering or not entering. Entering *what?*

And it's called...

All the guilds in Fiore gather together for a huge magic competition!

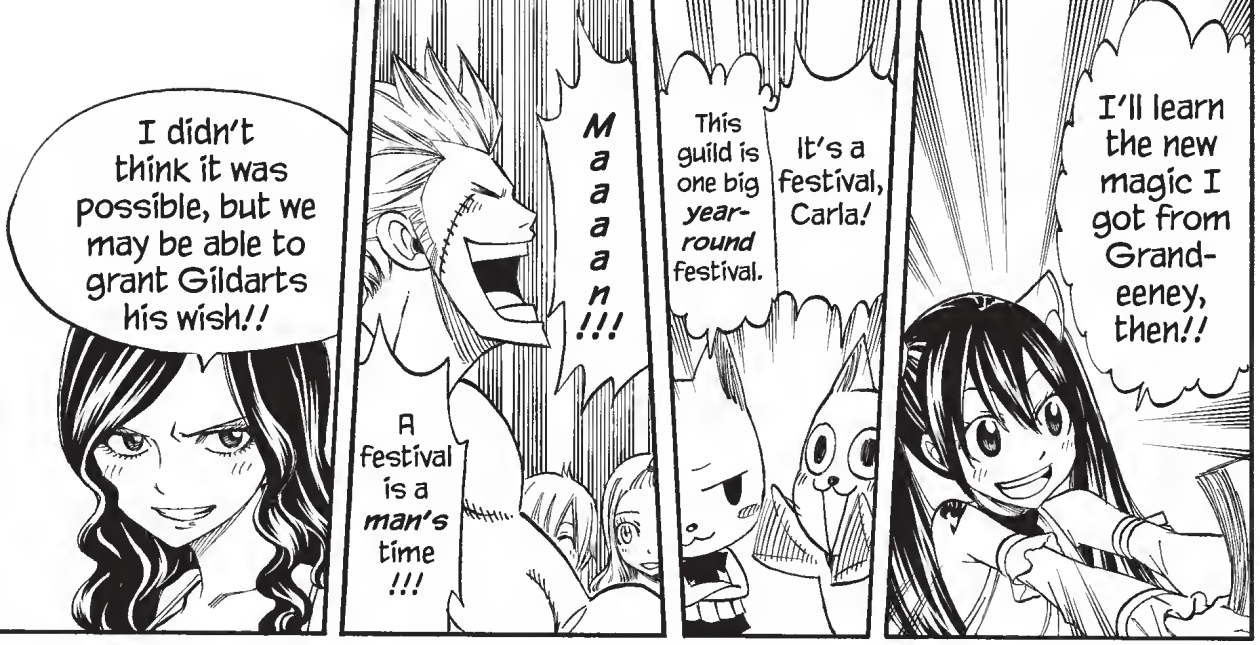
Now *that* sounds fun!!
Ohhh!!

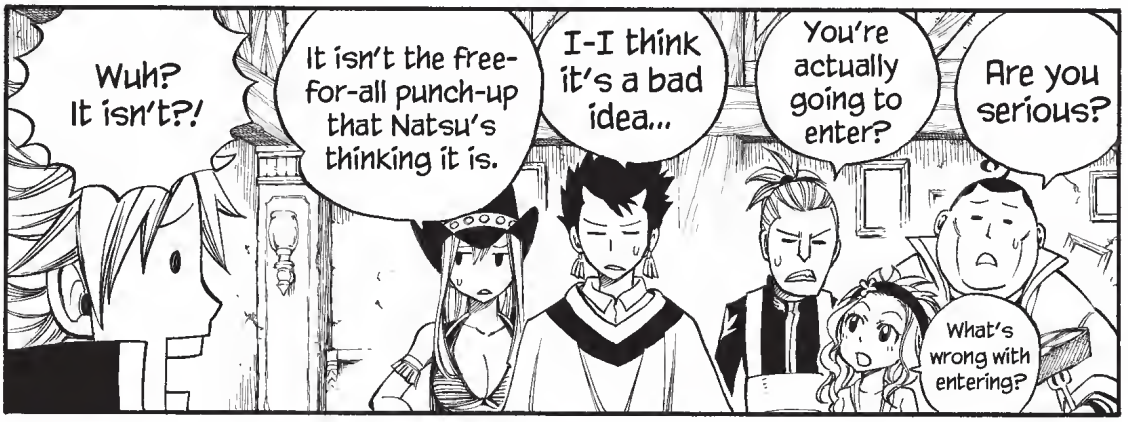

...the Grand Magic Games !!!!
!!
DOOOOOOOM
!

Ohh ...!!!
Sounds like fun!
The Grand Magic Games !!
A real festival, huh?
Of course! If we could win...
...then Fairy Tail would become the top guild in Fiore!!!!
FLAFF
Yeaah !!!!

Master !!
We will enter !!!!
The guild that wins gets a grand prize of thirty million jewels!
Right!! Just as the master says!!
Maybe, but the way you all are now, I have my doubts that we could actually win.
We'll rout 'em all, one-by-one!
SHOOM
SHOOM
That's nothing to brag about.
By the way, every time in the past, we've come in dead last!
Saber Tooth will be competing!!
Impossible!! Both Pegasus and Lamia...
In three months !!
When do the games start?
Shut up!!!!
GWOOGGH
I'M ALL FIRED UP !!!!

That's plenty of time!!!! I'll see that I'm up to speed by then!!
SLAM
We'll make Fairy Tail the number one guild in Fiore again!!!!
Then there is nothing we cannot do!
Yeah!! As long as we all work together...
Sounds good.


I'll learn the new magic I got from Grand-eeney, then!!
It's a festival, Carla!
This guild is one big *year-round* festival.
Maaaan!!!
A festival is a *man's* time!!!
I didn't think it was possible, but we may be able to grant Gildarts his wish!!


Are you serious?
You're actually going to enter?
I-I think it's a bad idea...
It isn't the free-for-all punch-up that Natsu's thinking it is.
Wuh? It isn't?!
What's wrong with entering?

Let's bring home that trophy for Fiore's best guild!!!
AHEM
So let's bring home that thirty mill—

Since we've already decided to enter, anything you say now is useless!!!!

Team Fairy Tail...
...is going to enter the Grand Magic Games!!!!

FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL

Name: Bisca Connel

Age: 25

Magic: The Gunner

Likes: Alzack, Asuka

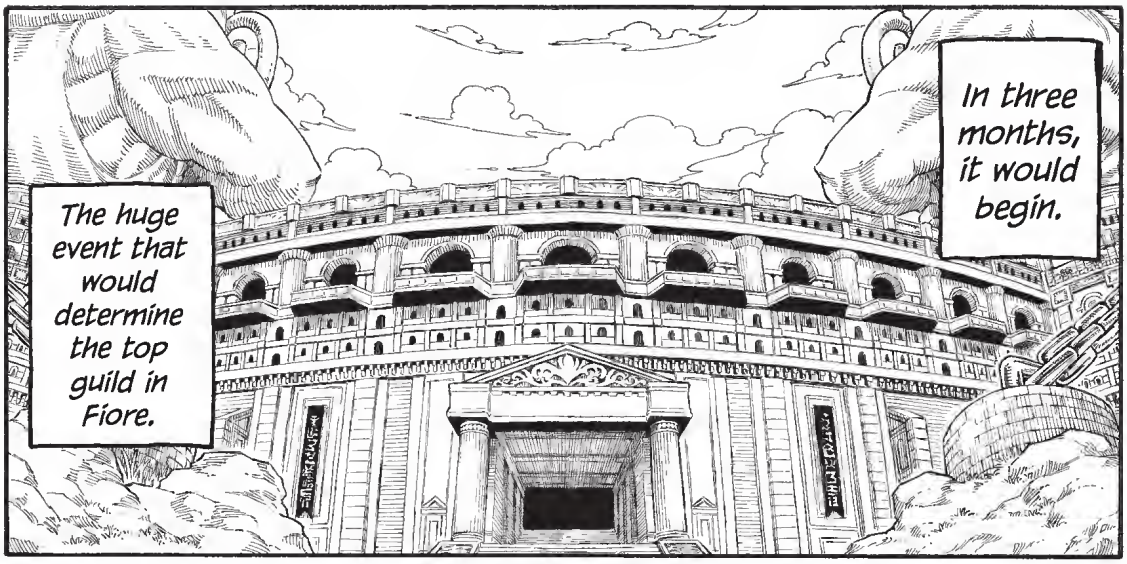
Dislikes: Sweet foods

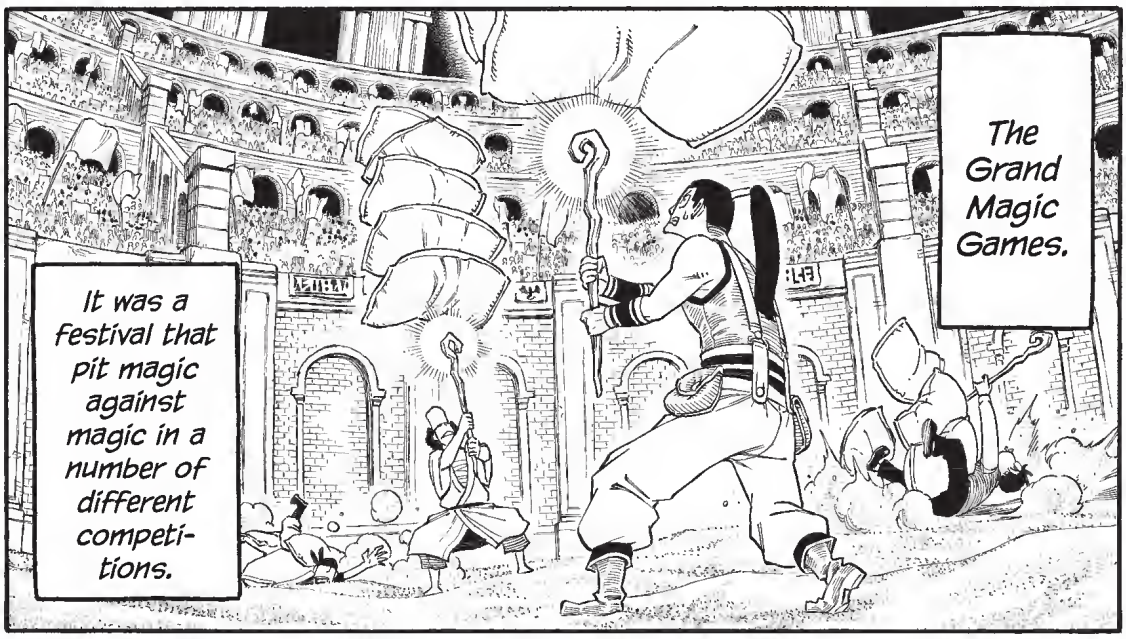
Remarks

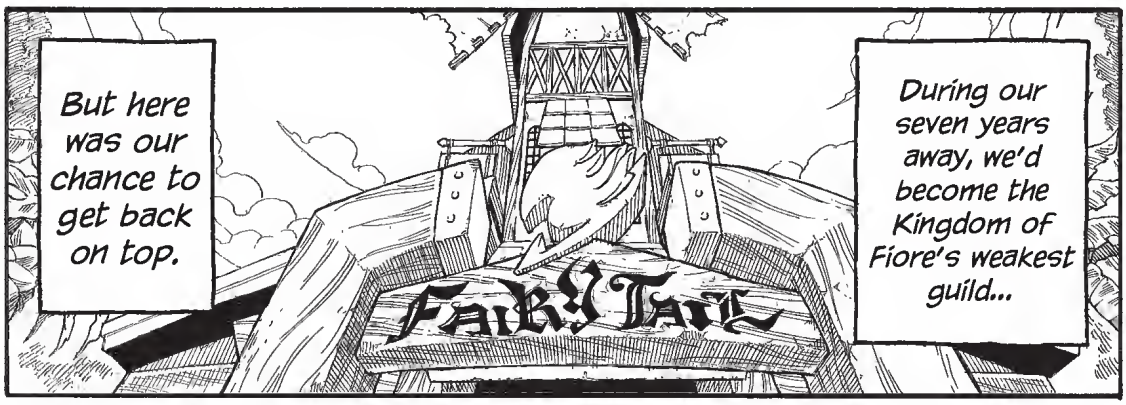
Six years earlier she married Alzack, changed her last name to Connel, gave birth to Asuka, and became the only "working mother" wizard in the guild. Over the past seven years, she's gotten much better. She can now reload more bullets faster, and even her aim has improved.

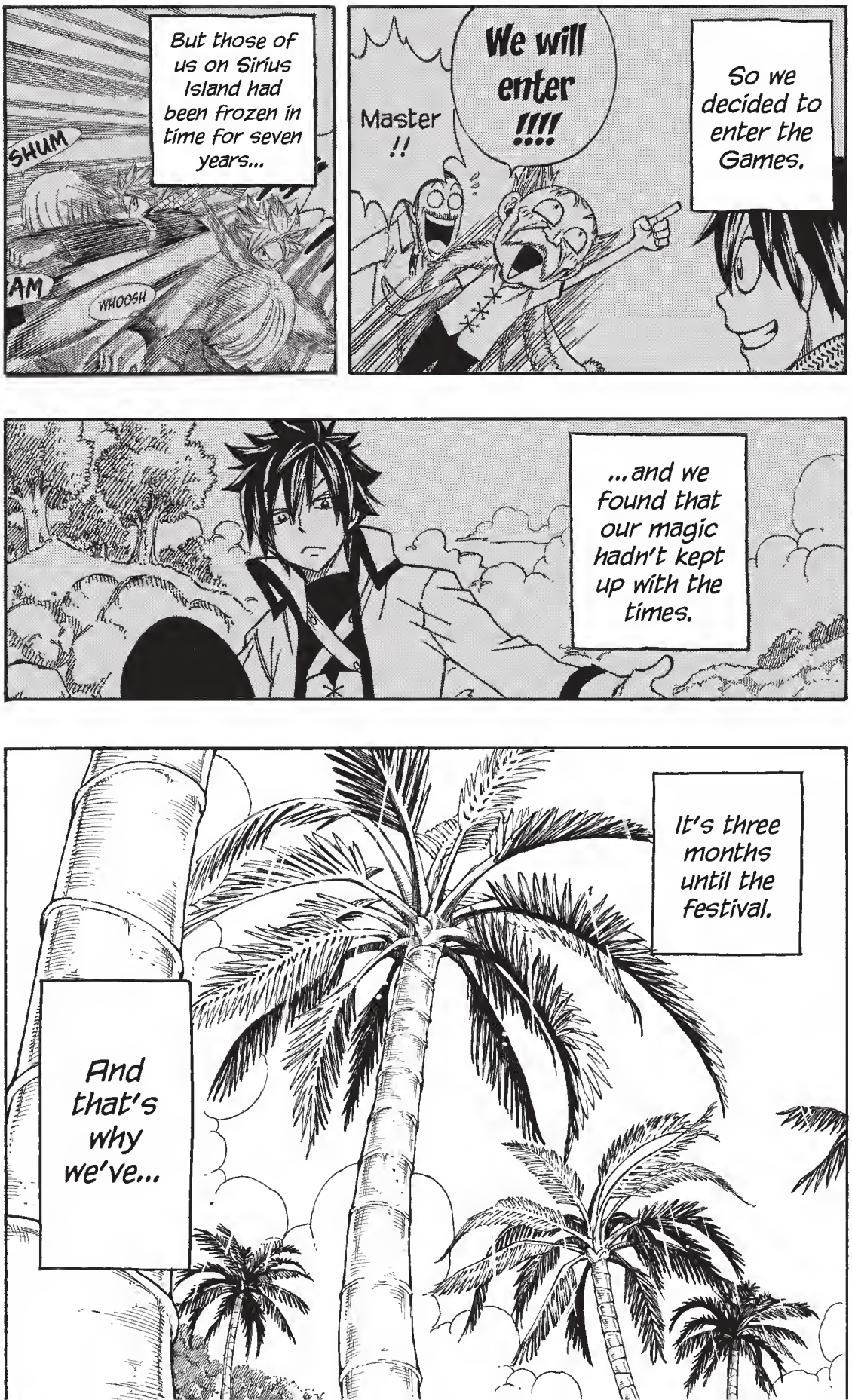
When she and Alzack are on a job, they leave Asuka with a friend, but Alzack doesn't know that the friend was also interested in him, and the two were secretly rivals for his affections.

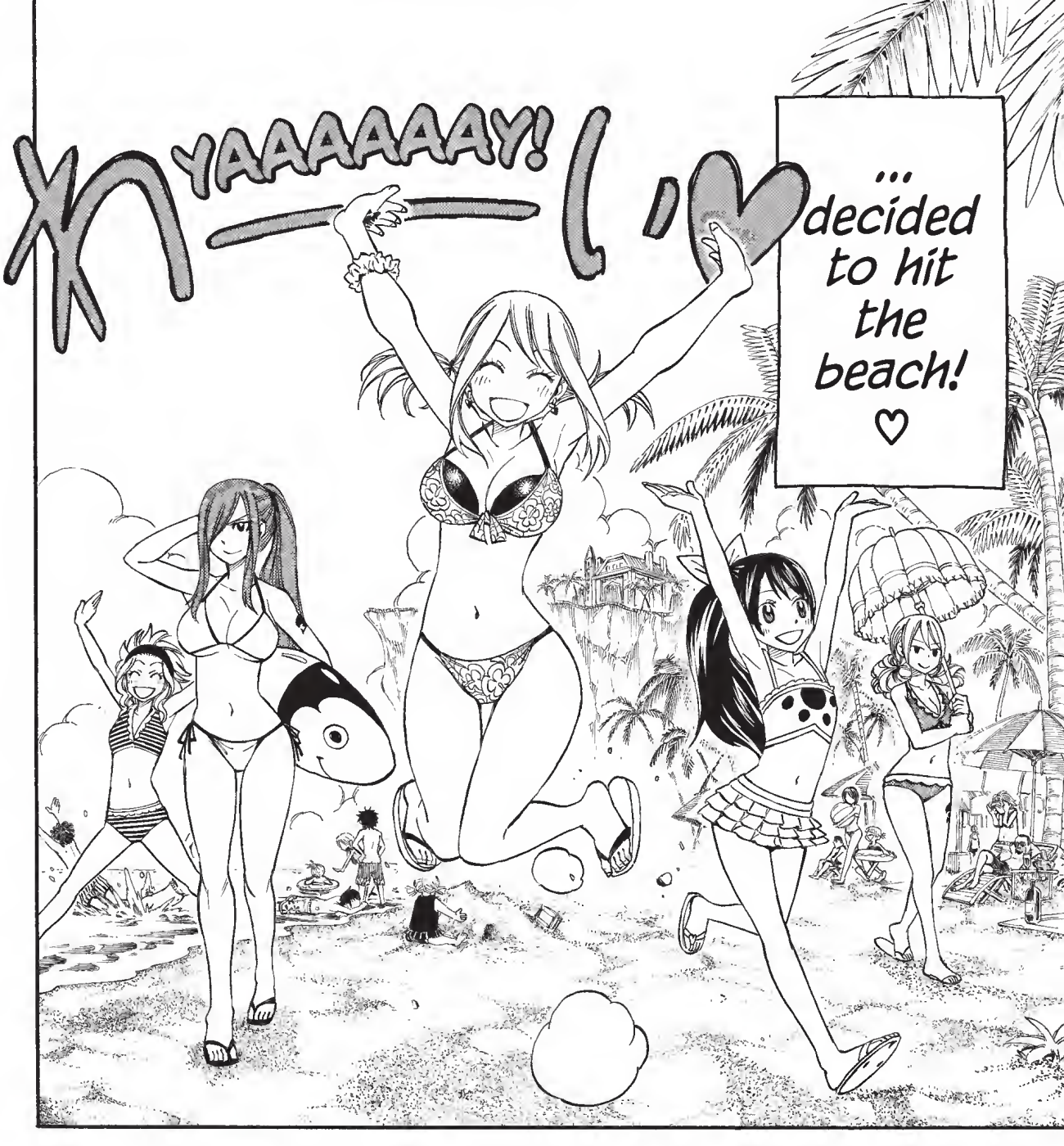
Chapter 261: The One Magic


The huge event that would determine the top guild in Fiore.
In three months, it would begin.

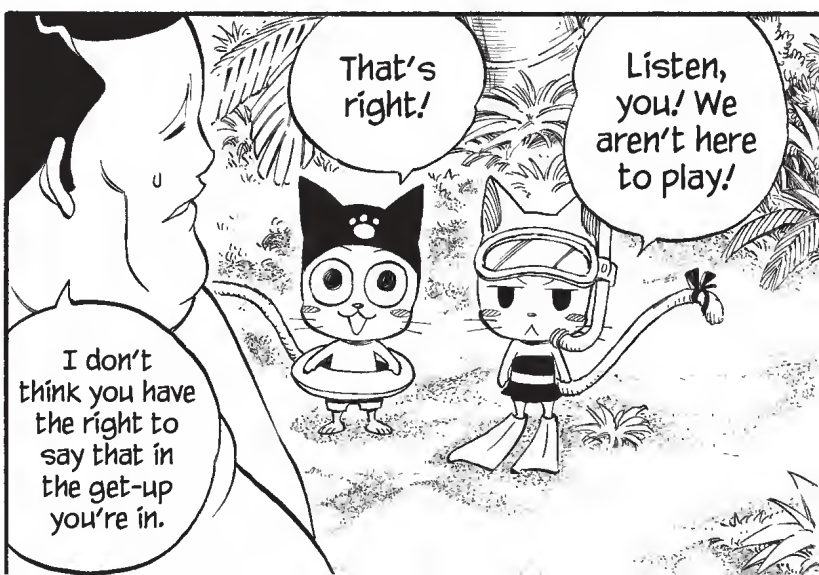

It was a festival that pit magic against magic in a number of different competitions.
The Grand Magic Games.


But here was our chance to get back on top.
FAIRY TAIL
During our seven years away, we'd become the Kingdom of Fiore's weakest guild...


But those of us on Sirius Island had been frozen in time for seven years...
SHUM
AM
WHOOSH
Master !!
We will enter !!!!
So we decided to enter the Games.
...and we found that our magic hadn't kept up with the times.
It's three months until the festival.
And that's why we've...

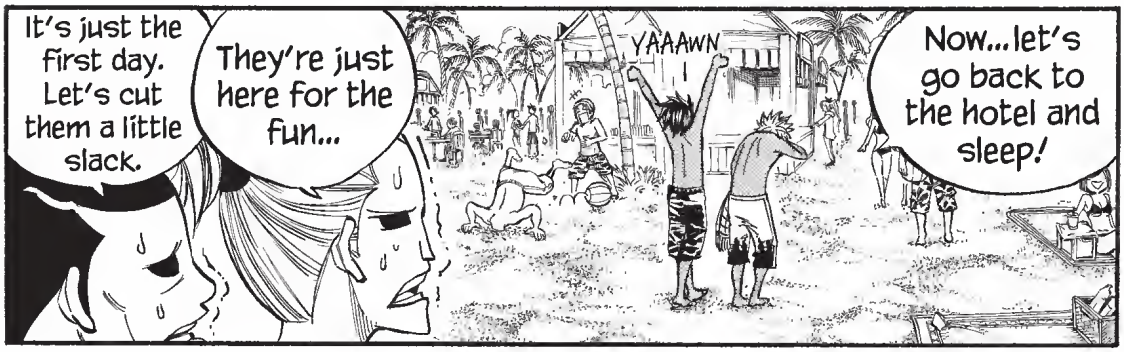

YAAAAAAAY!
...decided to hit the beach!

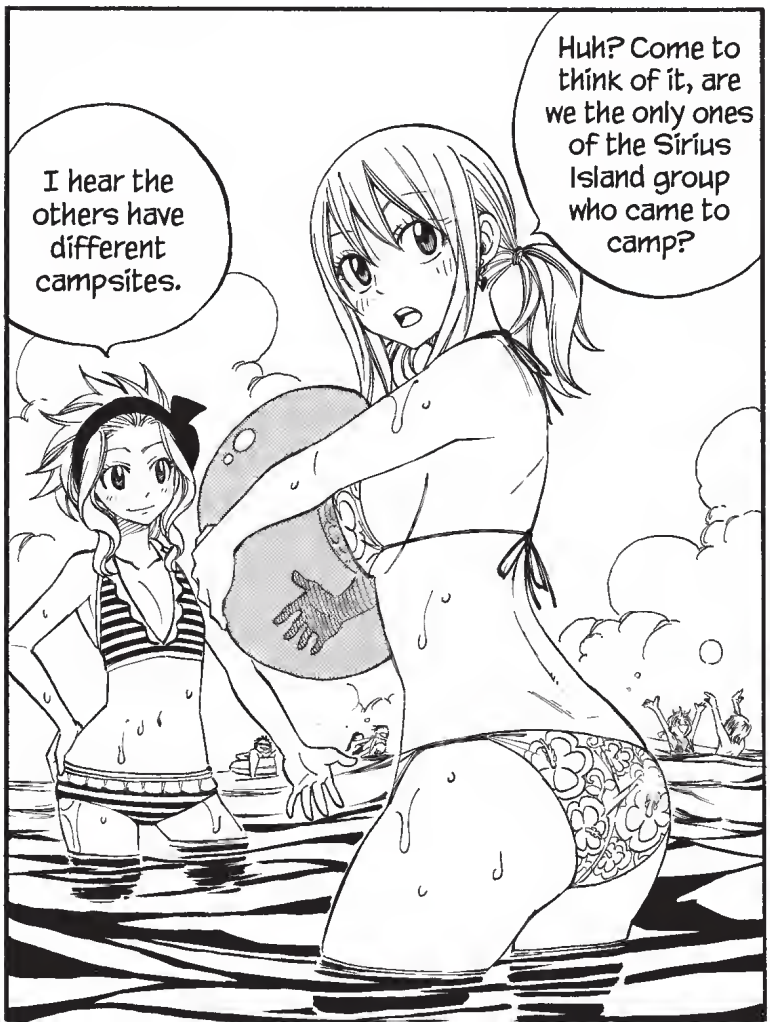
Of course, we understand perfectly!

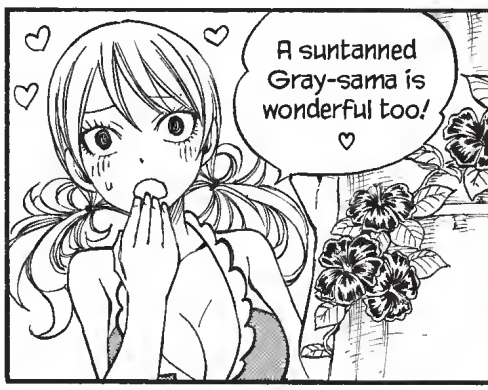

That's right!
Listen, you! We aren't here to play!
I don't think you have the right to say that in the get-up you're in.

...you have to rise to a level where you can at least defeat us!
By the time our training camp is over...
We must play well, eat well, and sleep well!
Variety is vital!
You left out training!
EYAAAHHHH
All riiiiiight !!!!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
BEAAAAAACH !!!!
Sand castle building contest !!!!
SPLASH
Swimming contest !!!!
SPLASH

Tanning contest !!!!
GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE
Eating contest !!!!

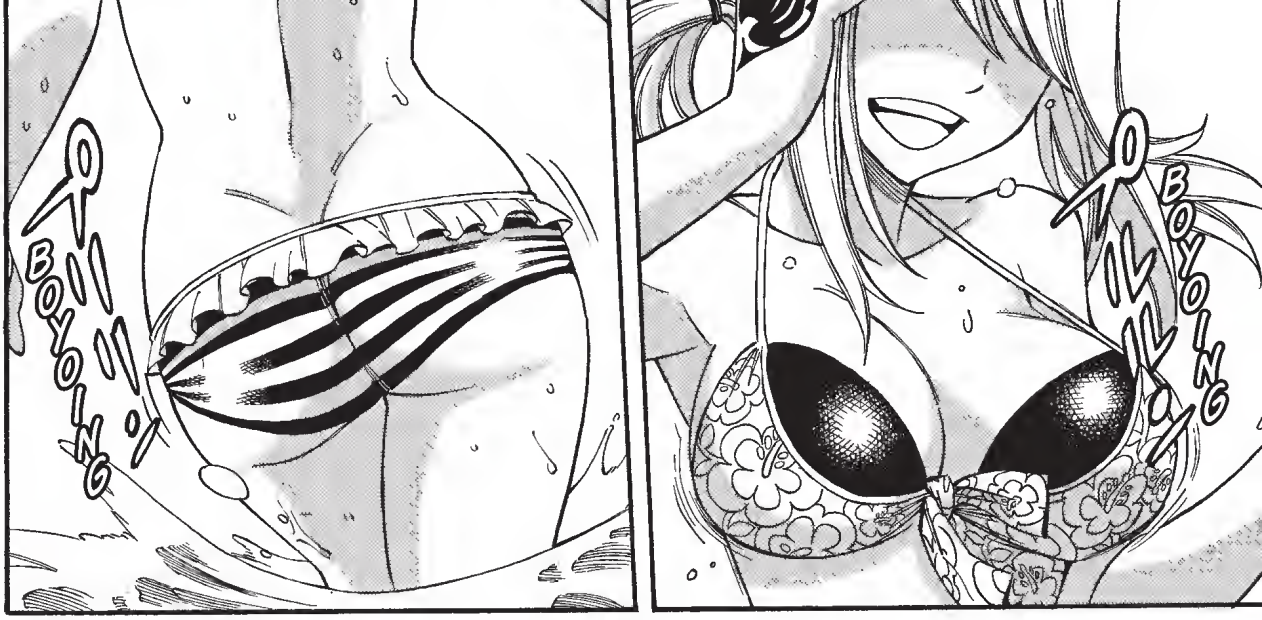

It's just the first day. Let's cut them a little slack.
They're just here for the fun...
YAAAWN
Now...let's go back to the hotel and sleep!

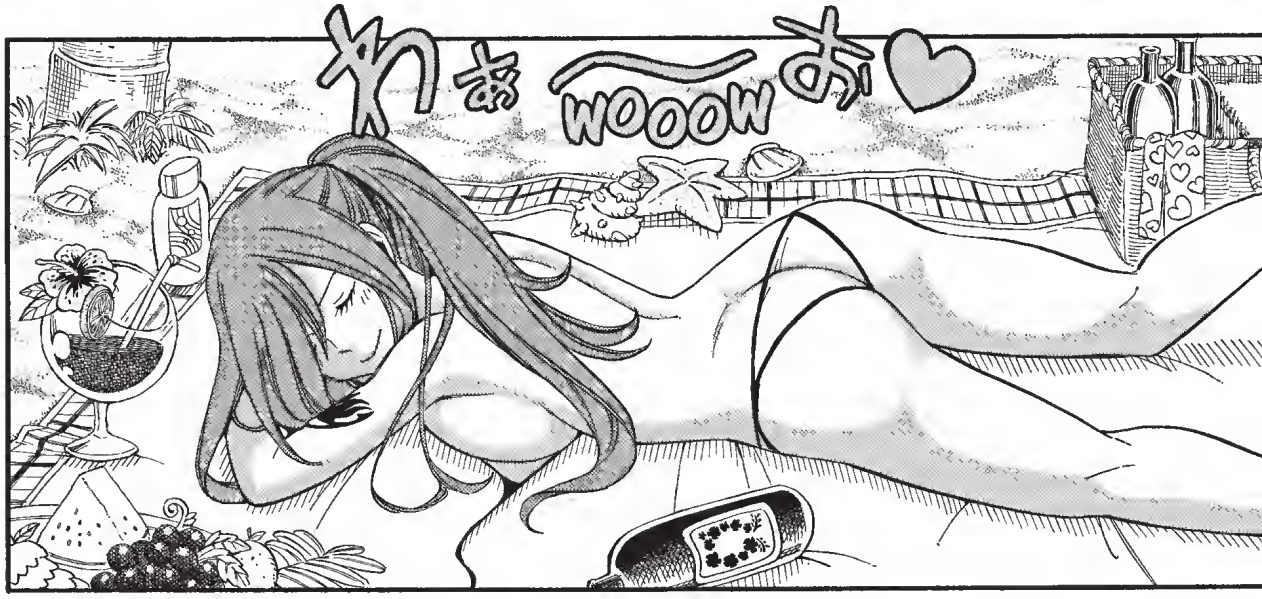

I hear the others have different campsites.
Huh? Come to think of it, are we the only ones of the Sirius Island group who came to camp?


A suntanned Gray-sama is wonderful too! ♡

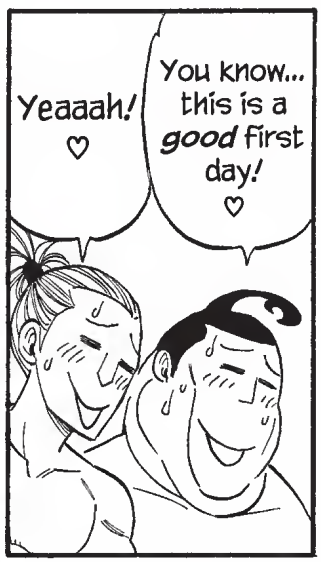
Let's see... How do you read this word?

And Laxus's group went someplace else.
Mira's group went to the mountains.
Some secret training. I asked if I could go along, but they said no.
Come to think of it, we haven't seen them lately.
Gajeel and Lily.
Hmm...
I get the feeling we're forgetting somebody...
キャー
EEEK
AH HA HA!
Oh, come on, Lu-chan!!
N-No!! It isn't like that!!!
"Go along"...? Oooh! Levy!


ポロン
BOYOLING
ポロン
BOYOLING

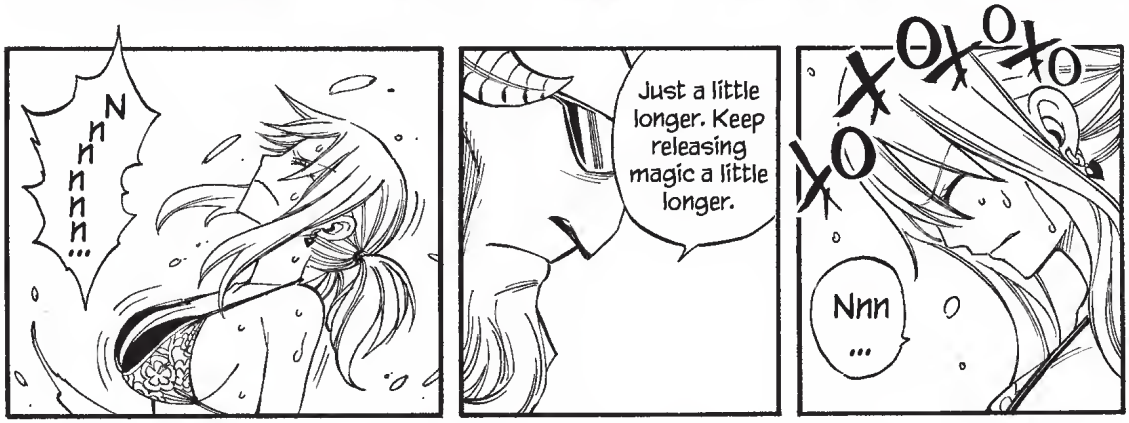

わぉ WOOOW お♡

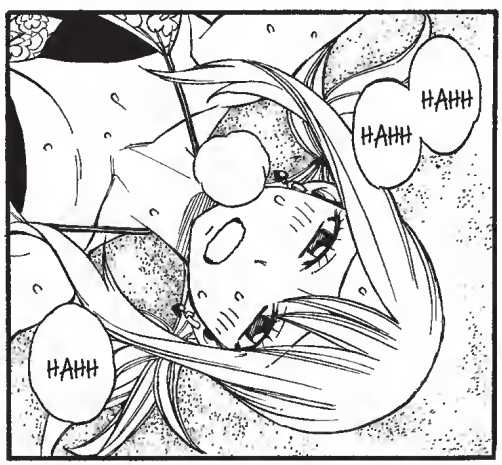
Anyway, we were determined to start training that very afternoon.

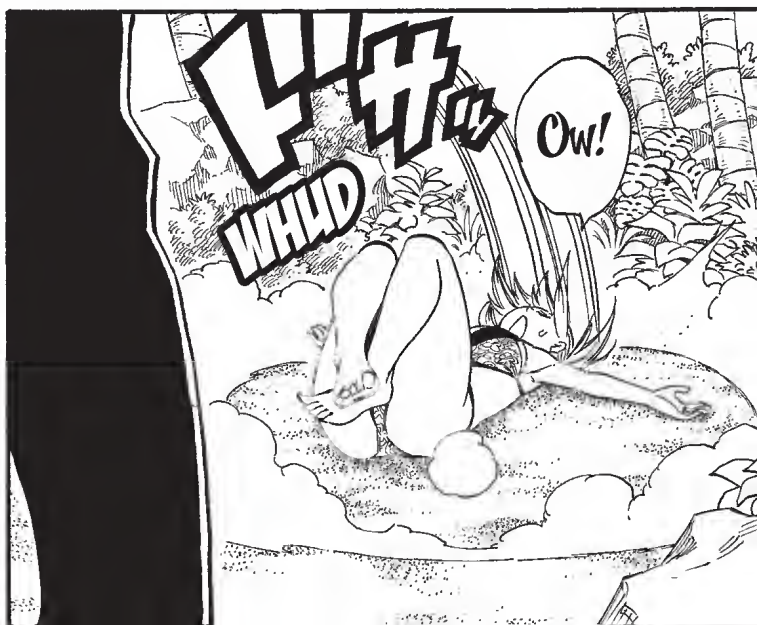

Yeaaah! ♡
You know... this is a good first day! ♡

To do that, you must train your nervous system until you have formed it into a vessel for magic power.
Personally, I want to do something about the fact that my magic always cuts out at the most crucial moment.
Next, breath so deeply you become one with nature.
You must feel the earth...
...the wind... your energy... Feel it all through your skin.
スゥ
SSSSP
ハァ
HAHHH

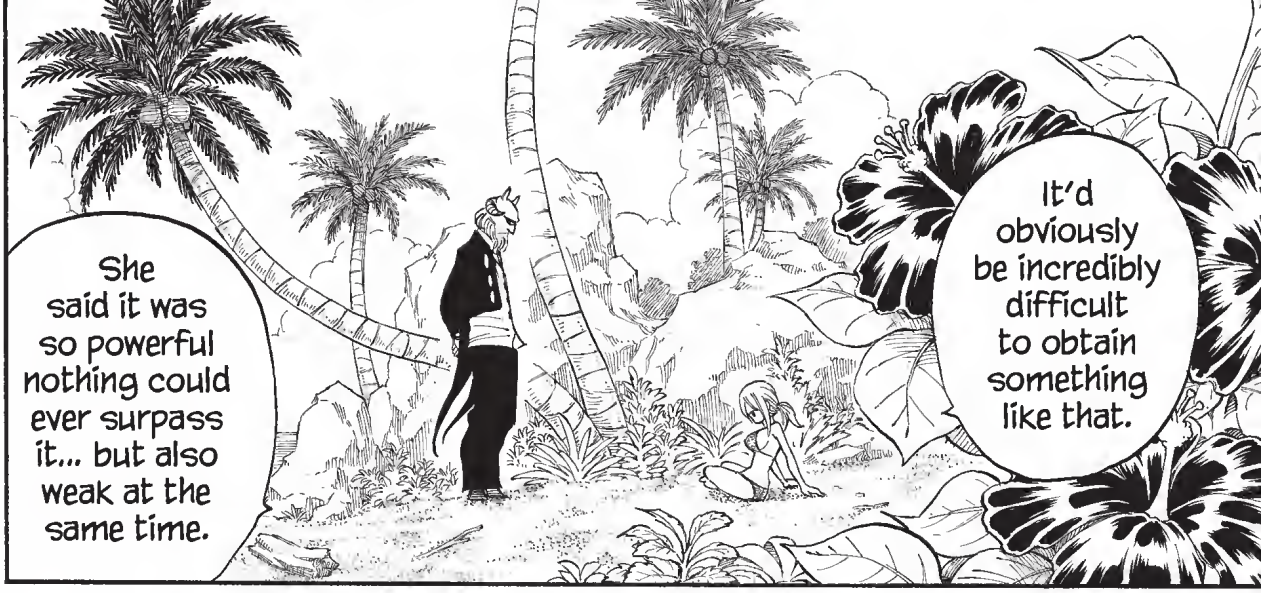
FYOOOO
Yes, that is the way, Lady Lucy!
Keep going.
FFT
!

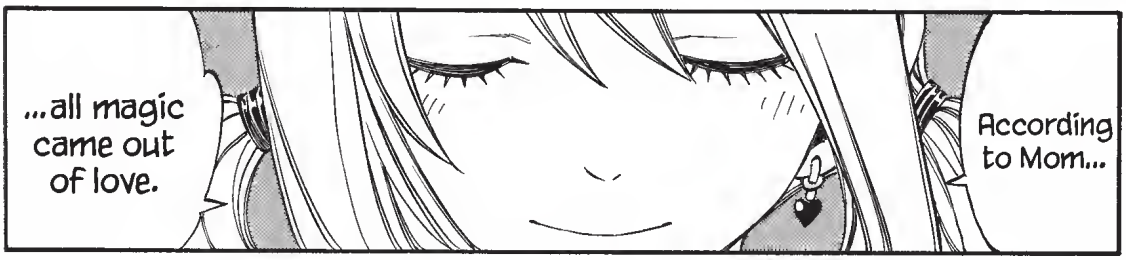

Nnnnn...
Just a little longer. Keep releasing magic a little longer.
Nnn...


HAHH
HAHH
HAHH


WHUD
Ow!

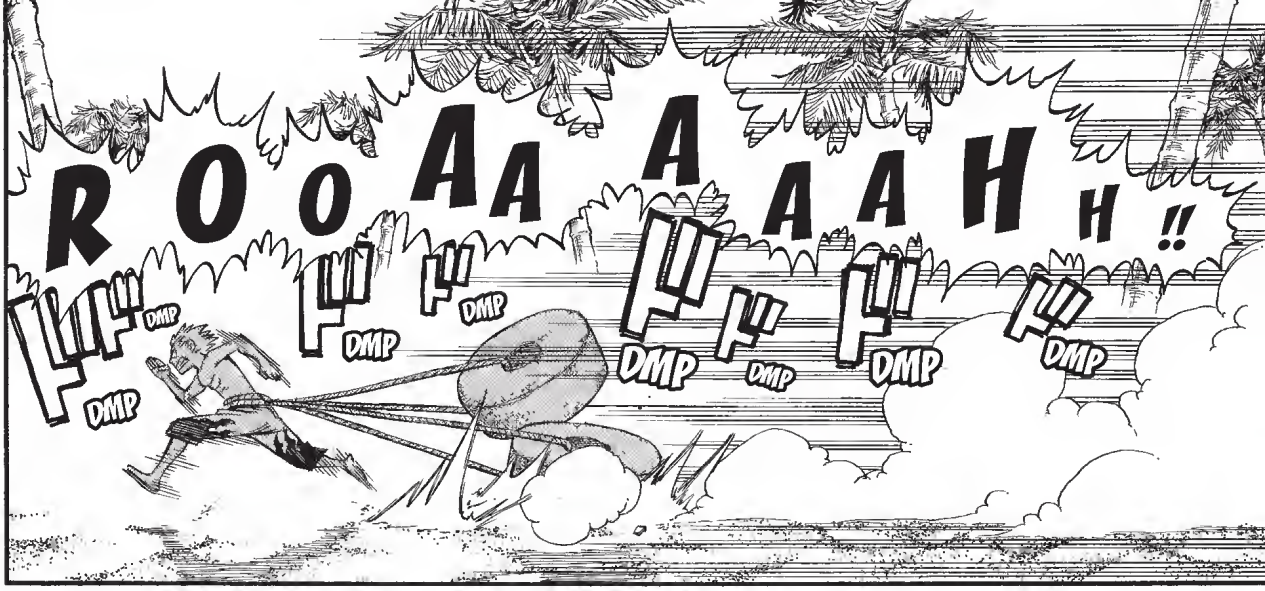
This is hard!
はあ HAHH
はあ HAHH
Lady Layla did the same kind of training in an effort to build up her celestial magic.
Say... Have you ever heard of the one magic?
You mean the point where all magic is said to have started?
Hades was talking about it. He said he wanted to get his hands on it.
My mother told me about it once...
But what she said wasn't as awful as Zeref or the Great Magic World.
...May I ask what you mean?
Supposing... the one magic that Mother spoke of was real...
...then it wouldn't be something that Hades could ever get his hands on. Such a thing would be out of the question...


She said it was so powerful nothing could ever surpass it... but also weak at the same time.
It'd obviously be incredibly difficult to obtain something like that.

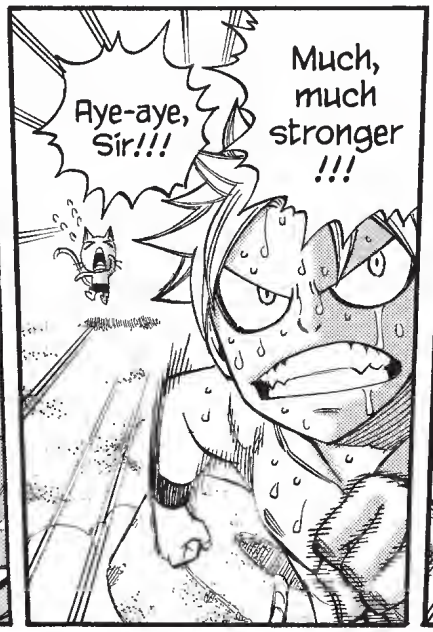

...all magic came out of love.
According to Mom...

That's why I think the one magic...
...is LOVE.

I wish Hades could think the same way.
That is a wonderful theory.
Maybe if he had, he wouldn't have fallen into the depths of darkness.


ROOAAAAAHH!!
DMP

Aye!
I'm going shut the mouth of anyone who makes fun of the guild!!!!


Aye-aye, Sir!!!
Much, much stronger !!!

Aye, Sir!!
Stronger !!!

I'll show 'em!!!
DMP
I'm going to show them the power of Fairy Tail!!!!

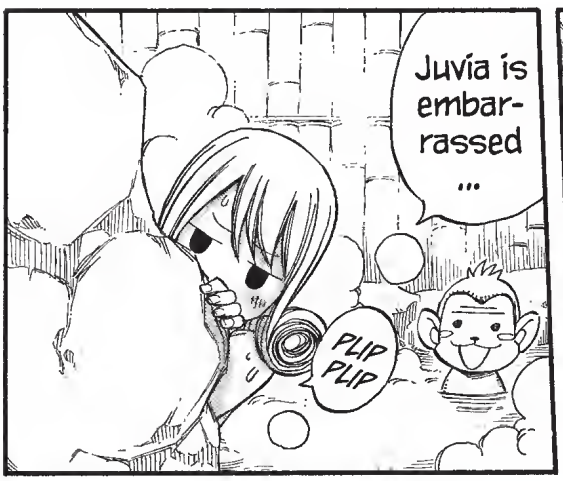
... them...
... show...
I'll...
明音

*Akane Inn

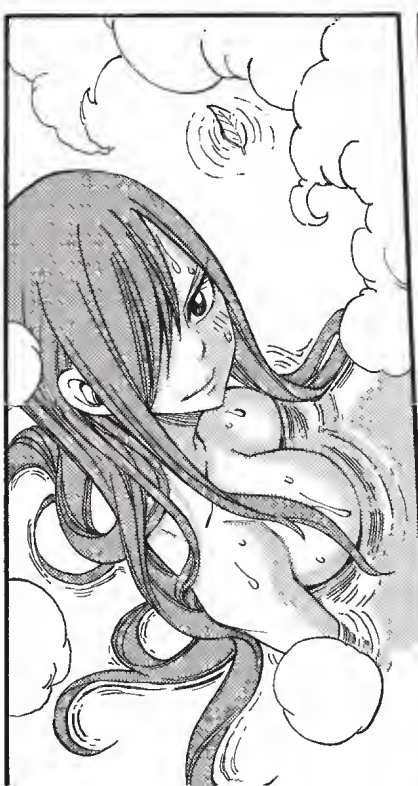
ポヘ PUFF
ポヘ PUFF
ポヘ PUFF
Juvia, hurry up!
HAHHH—

I ate too much...
Hey, no fair you going in front!
W-Well, this sort of thing is *expected* of us...
This'll be some show!!
HEE HEE

I hear this hot spring is good for healthy, beautiful skin.
It really takes your exhaustion away!
PUFF PUFF PUFF
Yes, a warm bath after a strenuous workout imparts a special feeling.

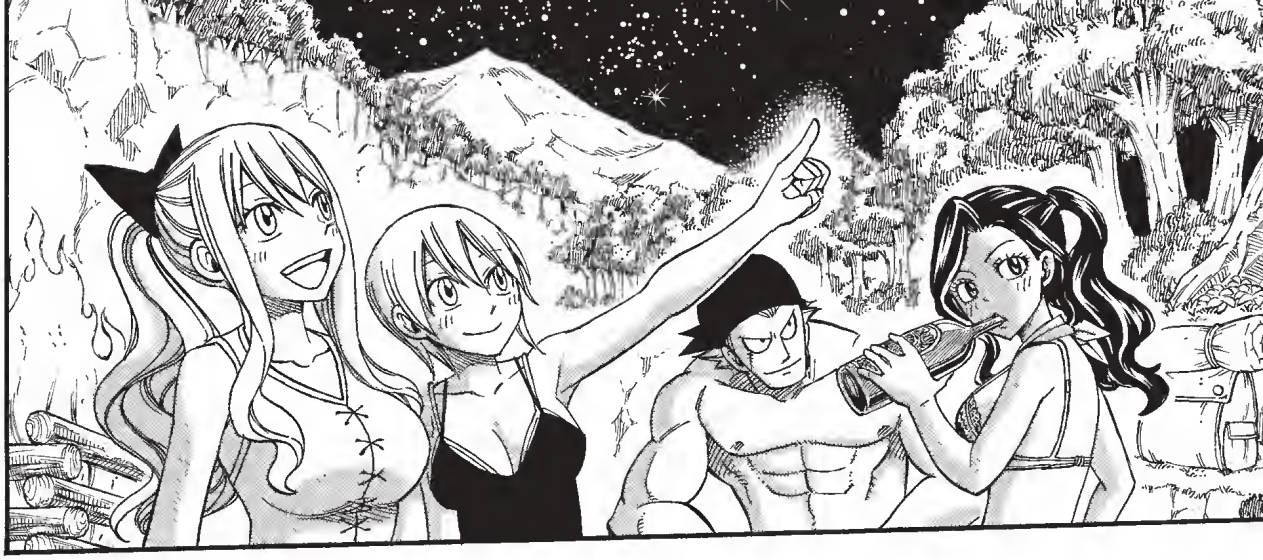

Juvia is embar-rassed ...
PLIP PLIP

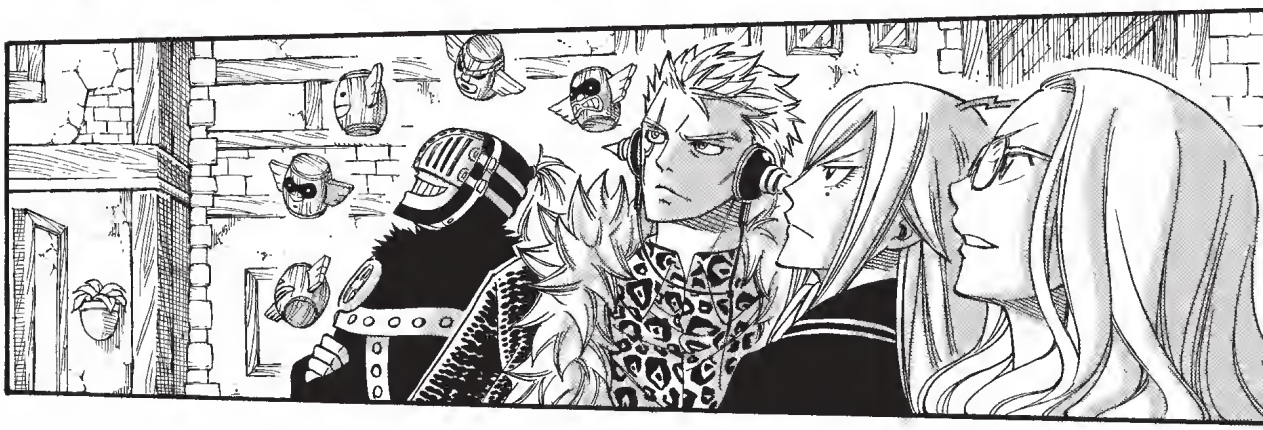
Because I'm a cat!
Wait! Why is Happy here?

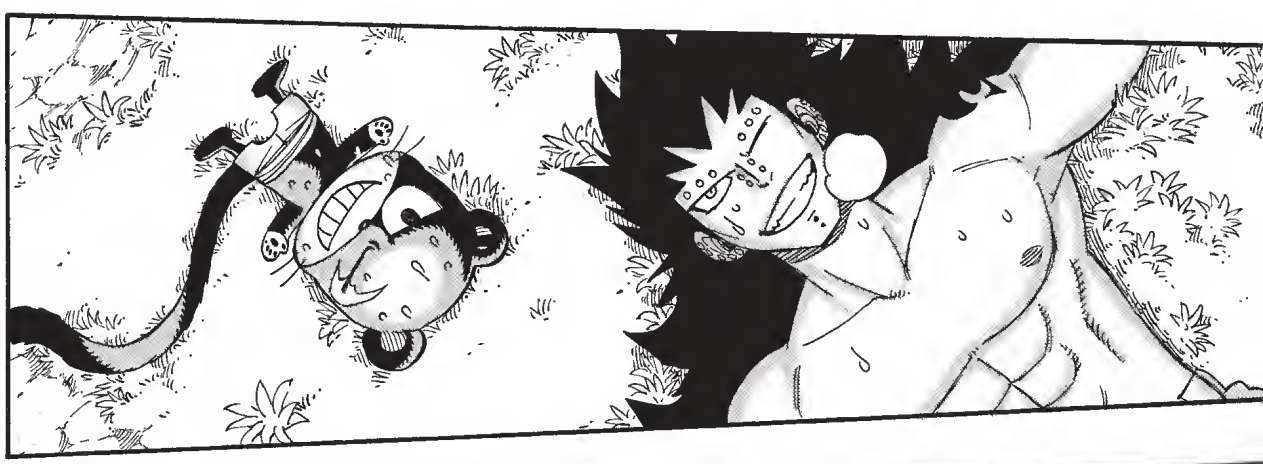


Look!
The stars are so pretty!

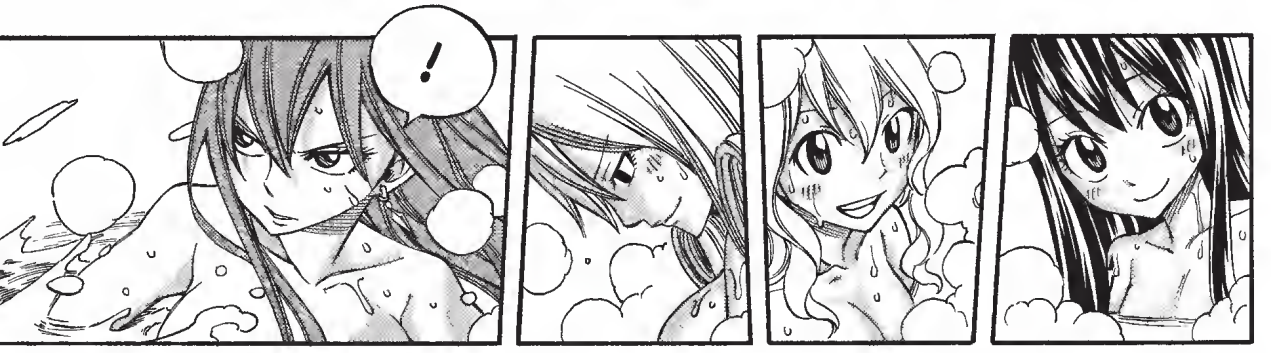
I wonder if the others are working hard on their training journeys, too.
Maybe they're looking at the very same stars we are!

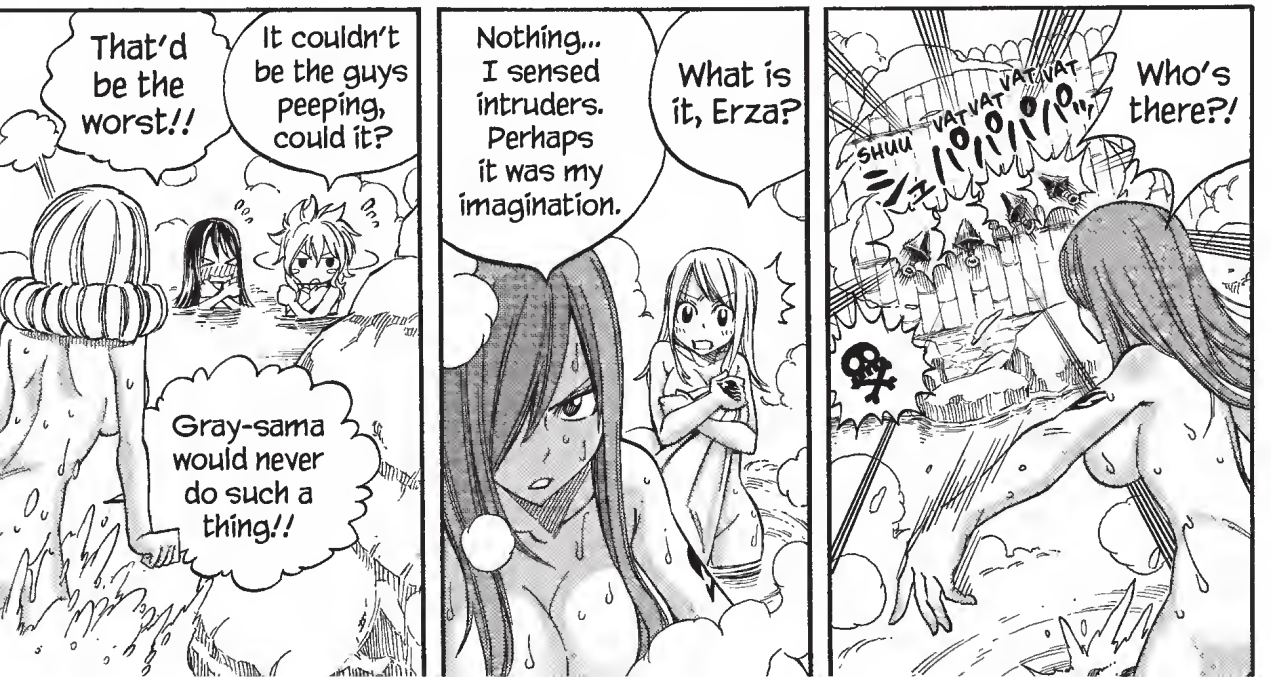


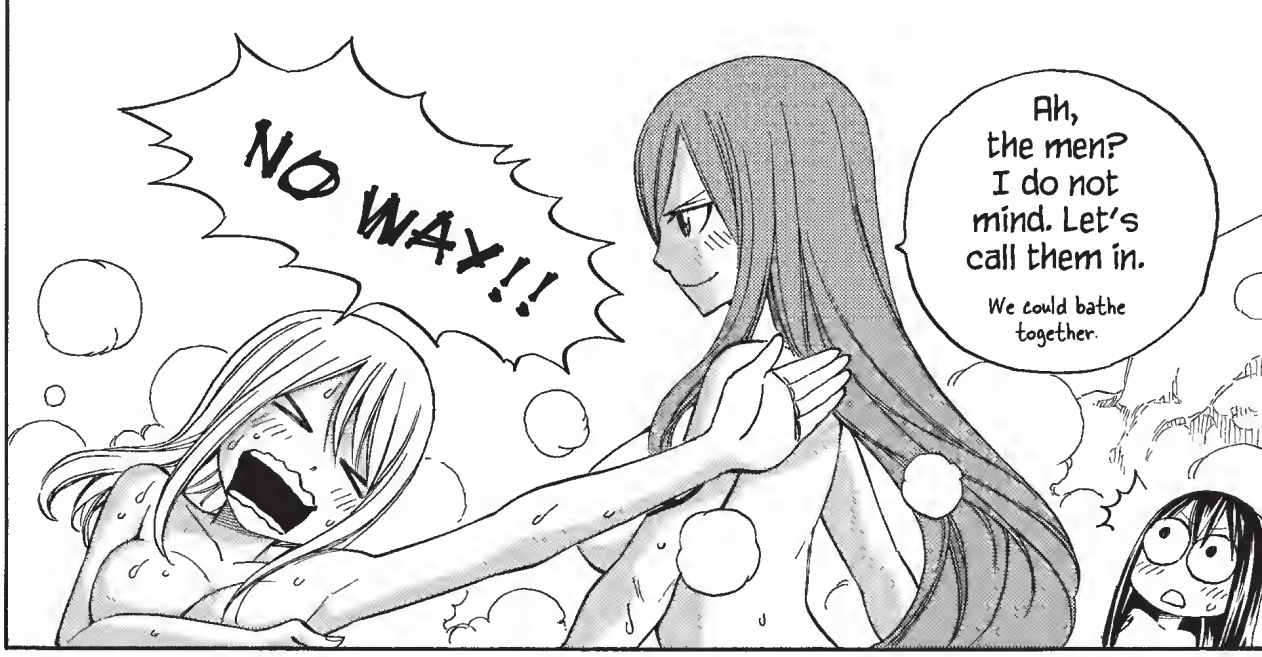




I have to work a lot harder, too!!


!


That'd be the worst!!
It couldn't be the guys peeping, could it?
Gray-sama would never do such a thing!!
Nothing... I sensed intruders. Perhaps it was my imagination.
What is it, Erza?
SHUU
VAT VAT VAT VAT
Who's there?!


NO WAY!!
Ah, the men? I do not mind. Let's call them in.
We could bathe together.

And Droy, why did you get hit *there*?!!!
OHHHH ...
You were all worked up about it too, you know!
I should never have followed you here.
I-I thought I was gonna die...
プス
FSS

FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL

Name: Wakaba Mine Age: 43

Magic: Smoke Magic

Likes: Liquor, tabacco, women Dislikes: His wife

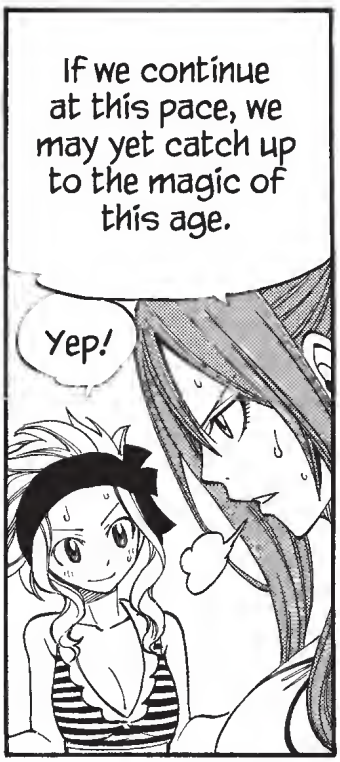
Remarks

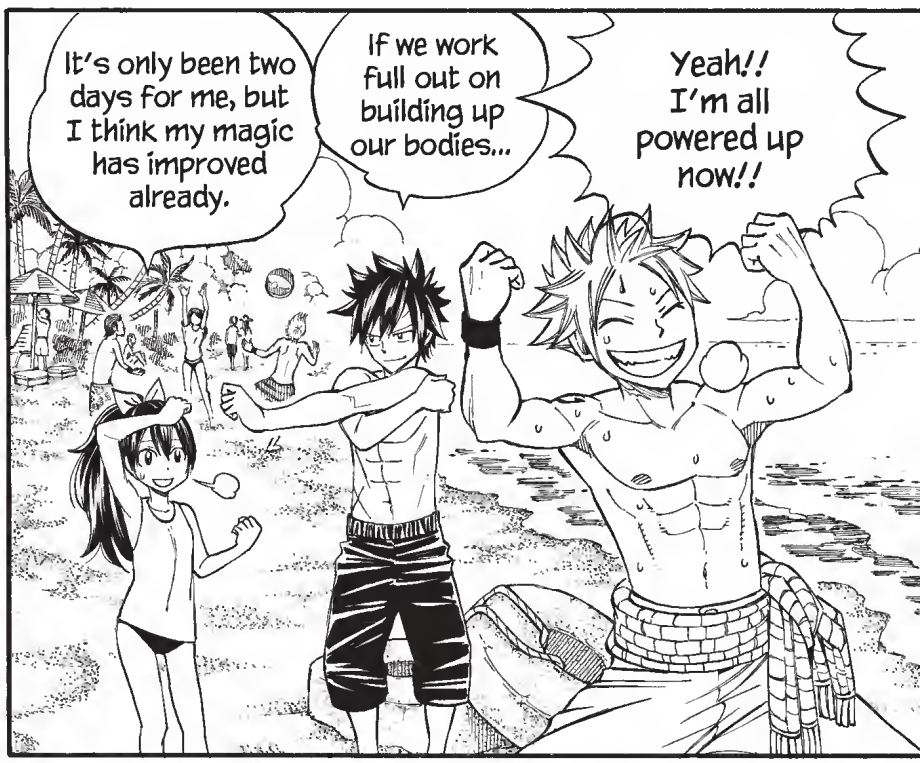
He was top aide to the fourth master, Macao, for seven years. As such, it could also be said that he was one of those who allowed Fairy Tail's strength to weaken criminally during those years. His tendency toward sexual harassment has angered guild women including Laki and Kinana (guild employees).

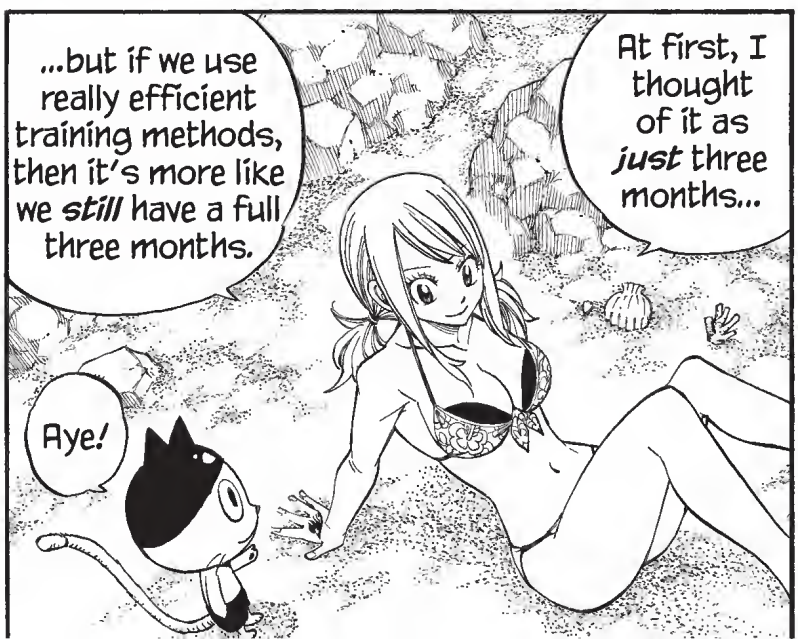
He has a daughter about the same age as Romeo, but recently she has not been speaking to him. She has declared that she will join Twilight Ogre when she gets a little bigger, and he was in the midst of doing everything he could to dissuade her when the Sirius Island group returned. Now, a bit of hope has returned to Wakaba's life.

Chapter 262: Song of the Celestials

With only three months to go before the Grand Magic Games.
It's our second day of beach training.


If we continue at this pace, we may yet catch up to the magic of this age.
Yep!

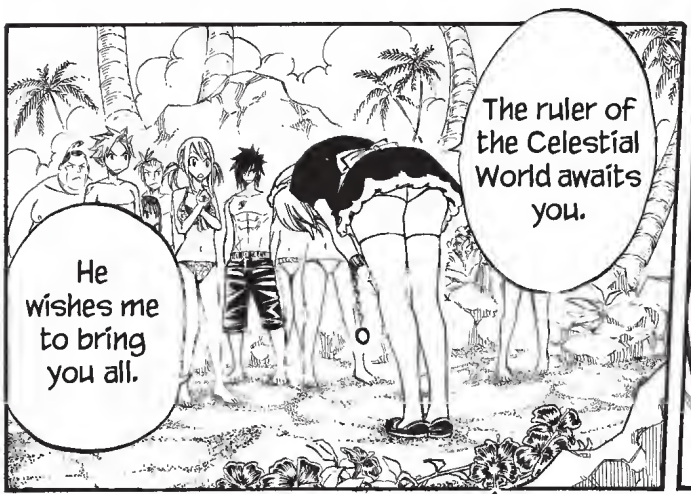

It's only been two days for me, but I think my magic has improved already.
If we work full out on building up our bodies...
Yeah!! I'm all powered up now!!


...but if we use really efficient training methods, then it's more like we *still* have a full three months.
At first, I thought of it as *just* three months...
Aye!

You'll see what comes from fairies doing three months of *training by fire!!!!*
Ha ha ha ha ha!!! Just you watch and see, you jerks from the other guilds!!

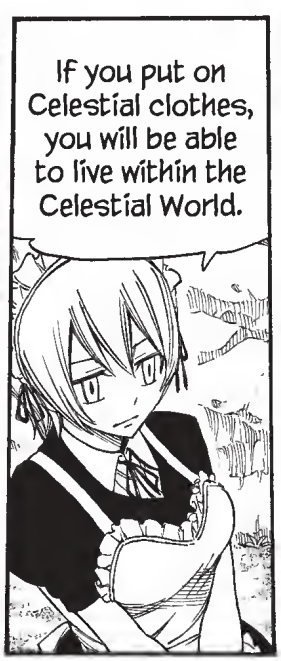
Bad news!
Princess!
BWUMP
Where do you think you're popping up from?!!
AAACK!!
A maid Celestial Spirit...
Virgo!
This is punishment, isn't it?
Come to think of it, Lucy was in the Fairy Sphere for seven years...
...so the Celestial Spirits contracted to her spent all that time in the Celestial World?
Those poor spirits! And it's all Lucy's fault!
All Lucy's fault...
What's the matter?
No... That wasn't much of a problem...

The Celestial World may be destroyed.
We beg all of you...to please come save us!


The ruler of the Celestial World awaits you.
He wishes me to bring you all.

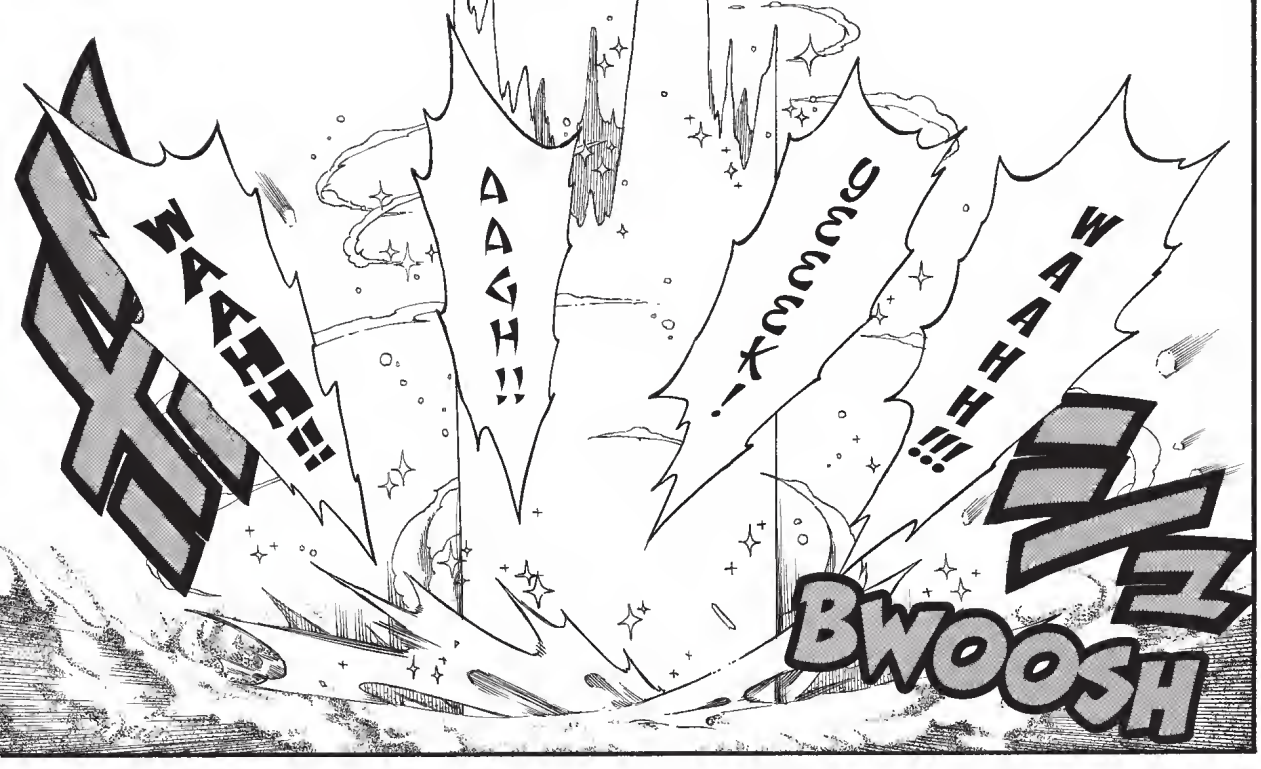
What's that mean?
What was that?
...!!!

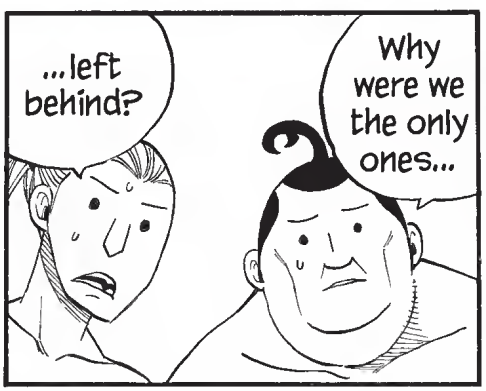
KWEEENG
We're going.
Hold it! I'm not emotionally prepared—


If you put on Celestial clothes, you will be able to live within the Celestial World.

Right!! Leave it to us!!! If a friend is asking, we're there...

Wait!!
I didn't think that humans could enter the Celestial World!


BWOOSH
WAAHH!!!
GWWWX!
AAGH!!
KAAHH!!


...left behind?
Why were we the only ones...

BOOM

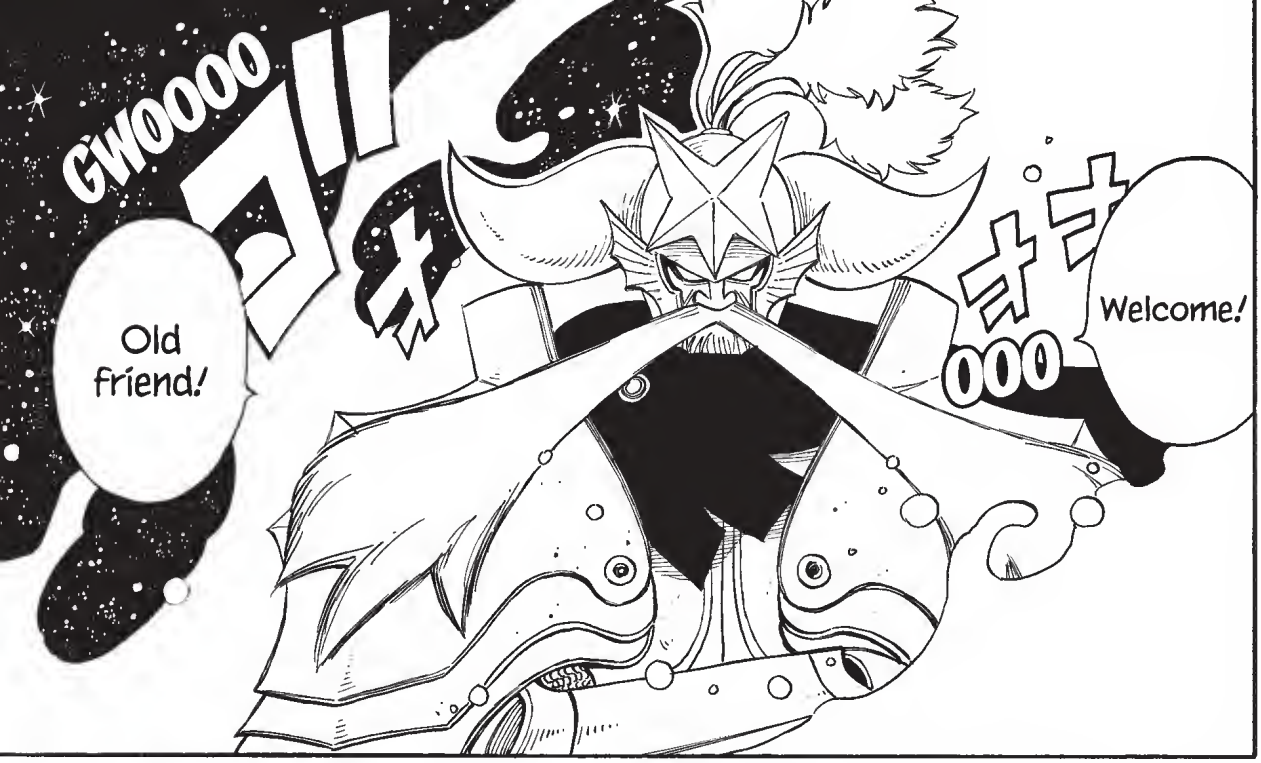
This is the Celestial World?!

!!!

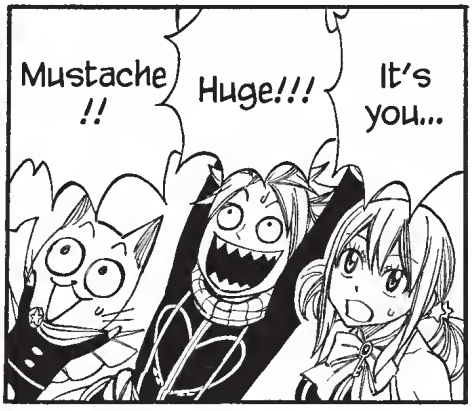
Wow!

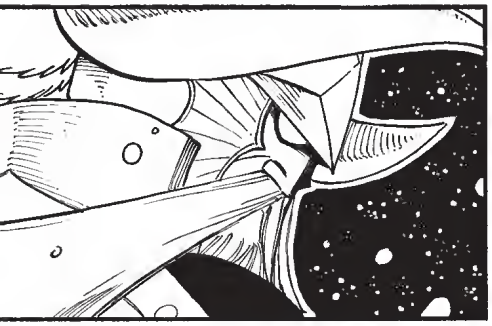
Eek—
WAH!
Ow!
ACK!
BLARG!

It's beautiful...!


GWOOOO
Old friend!
Welcome!

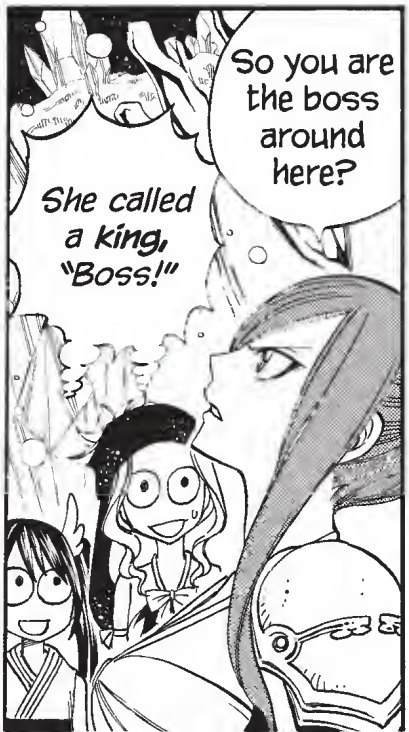
The Celestial King!!!!


Mustache !!
Huge!!!
It's you...

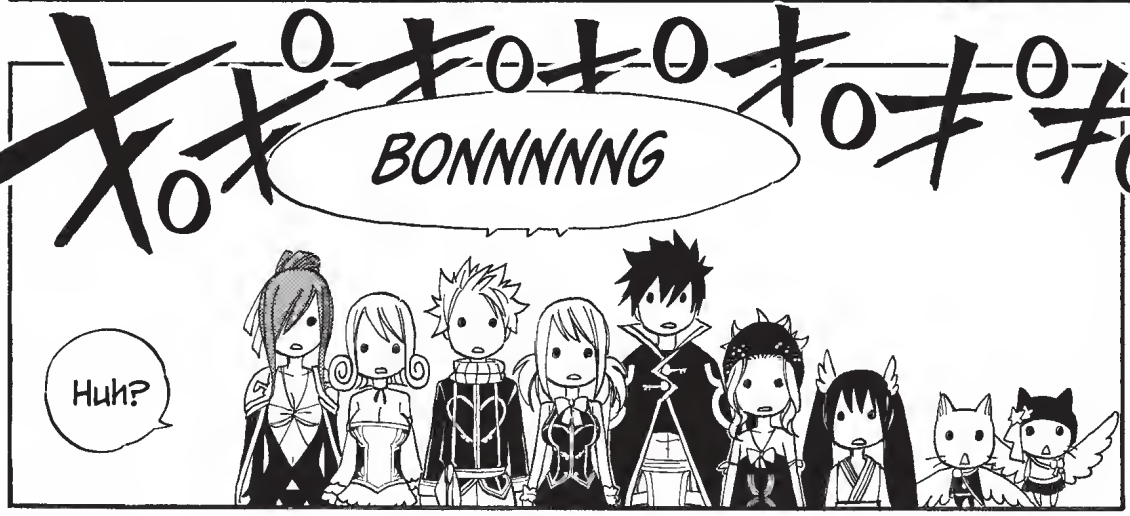


HENH

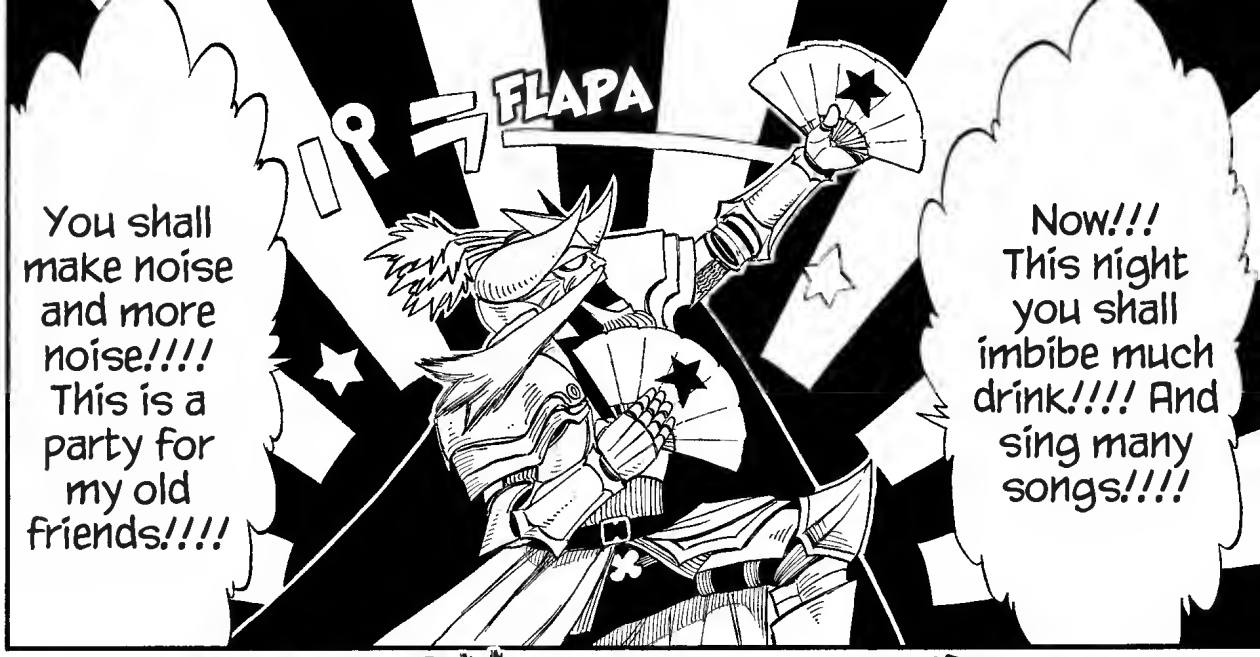
Indeed I am.
What's threatening this world...?

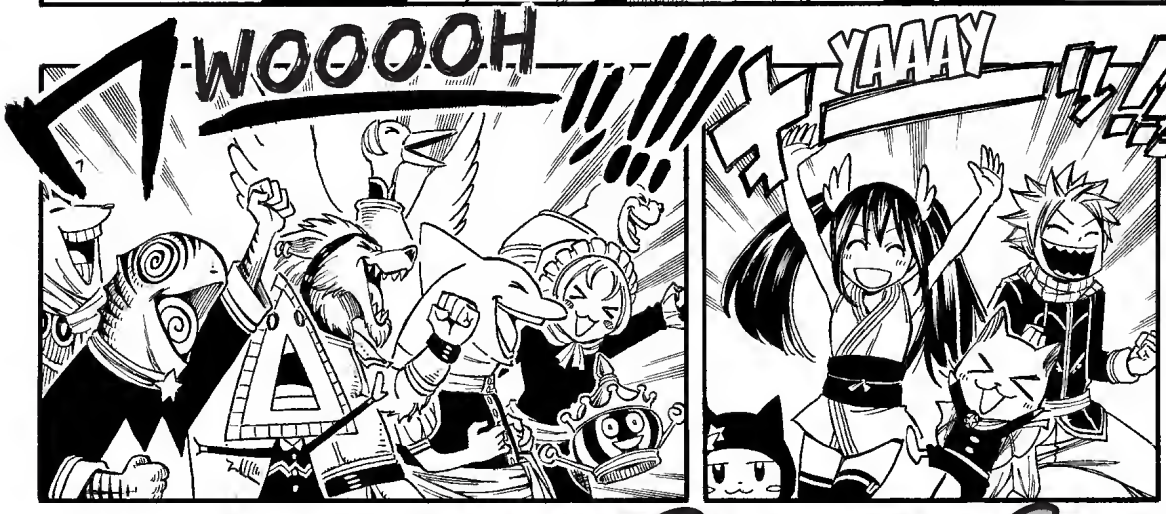

So you are the boss around here?
She called a king, "Boss!"

Congratulations on your freedom from the time curse!!!!
Lucy and her old friends...
We celebrate !!!!


BONNNNNG
Huh?

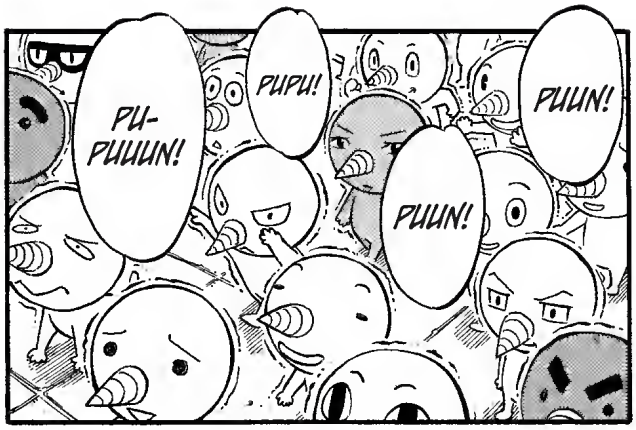
We just wanted to surprise you-ebi!
Ga ha ha ha ha!!! It was a tricky mooove! Sorry!
Tee hee!
WHAT ?!
Threat of destruction?
Right! Special!
It's just for this once! Yee-ha!
So instead we thought we'd bring you all to the Celestial World.
Forgive us!
We wanted to celebrate with everyone, but there are limits to how many of us can go to the human world at once.
Bah! We wished for something special on Lady Lucy's return, so we thought this up.
PIIRII PIIRII!
...Oh, honestly ...
Long time, no see, everybody!! You may now come flying into my waiting arms, Lucy!
Don't go scaring us like that!!
Moshi-moshi!!
Oh, really? Was that the deal?!!

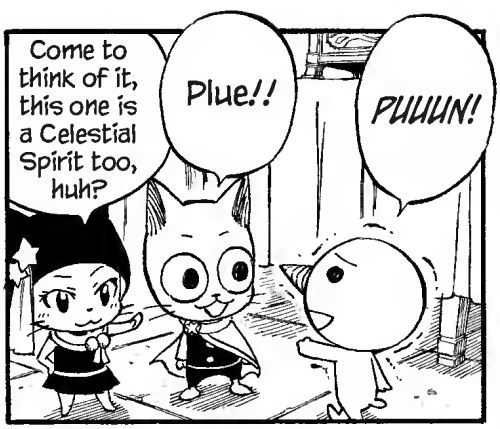

FLAPA
You shall make noise and more noise!!!! This is a party for my old friends!!!!
Now!!! This night you shall imbibe much drink!!!! And sing many songs!!!!

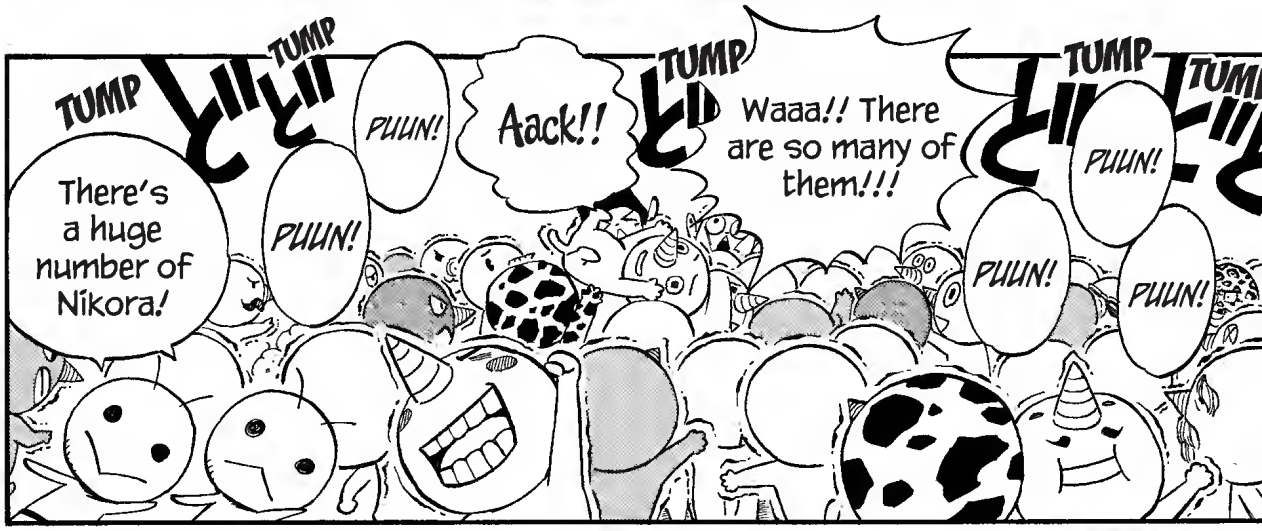

WOOOOH
YAAAY

CLAMOR
CLAMOR
MURMUR MURMUR
MURMUR MURMUR

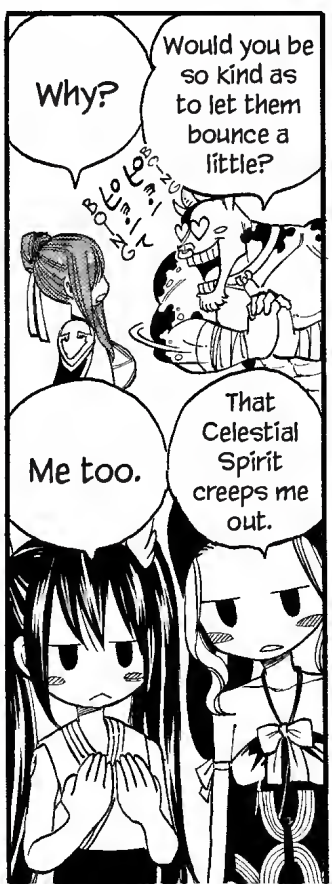
Yes... That was... Well...
But... Um... I was so embarrassed when you couldn't take my clothes...
"Please pardon me," he says!
Not at all. You needn't thank me!
Thank you for your help back then!
You been good?
BUMP
Too bad about the test.
Aww! How pathetic! You keep that up, you'll end up just like Lucy!
Um... No...
You got yourself a boyfriend?
What's *that* supposed to mean?
Com-bined ?!!
You were that woman who once combined with Lucy, right?
It's all right. He's just thinking.
He's asleep !!!
SCHNORR
SCHNORR
Really?!
GLEAM
Hmaa...
Shall I give you one...?
Wow! ♡ Amazing !!
Books I've never heard of, going on forever!!!


PU-PUUUN!
PUPU!
PUUN!
PUUN!


Come to think of it, this one is a Celestial Spirit too, huh?
Plue!!
PUUUN!


TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
There's a huge number of Nikora!
PUUN!
PUUN!
Aack!!
Waaa!! There are so many of them!!!
PUUN!
PUUN!
PUUN!

What is this food, anyway?
This is great !!!!
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE

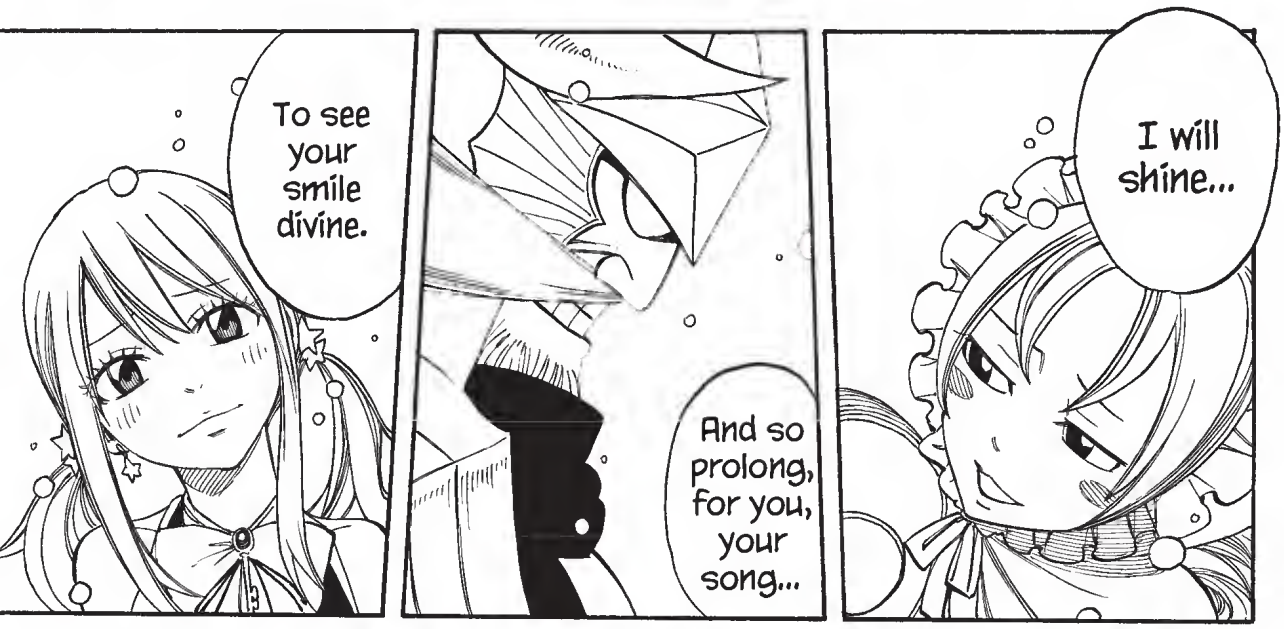

Why?
Would you be so kind as to let them bounce a little?
BO-ZU
BO-ZU
Me too.
That Celestial Spirit creeps me out.

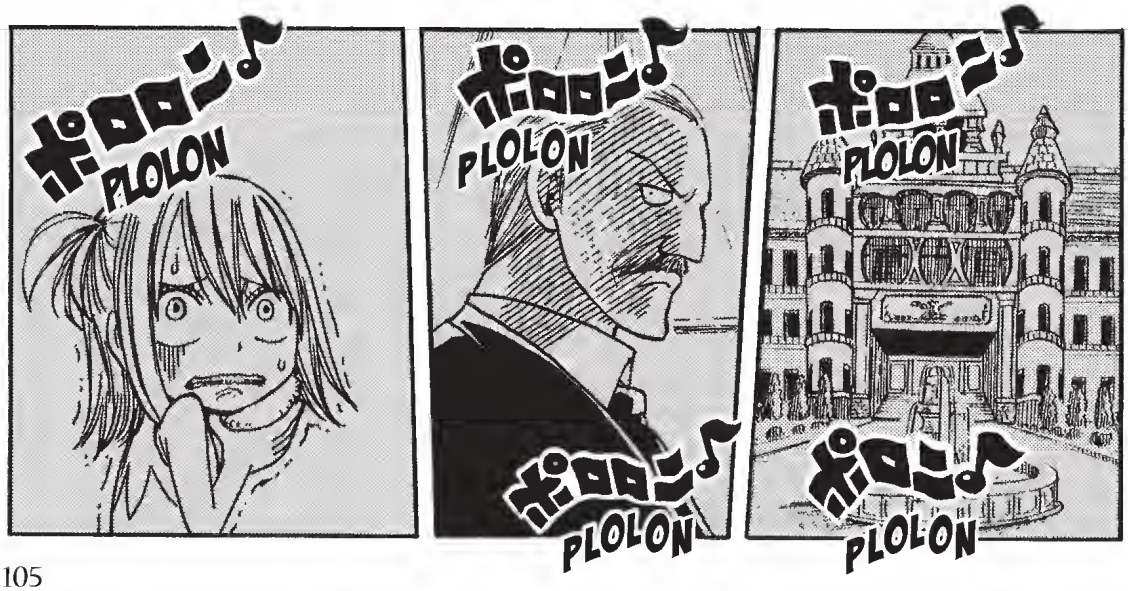
You think so?
Erza-san, as always, you have com-mooodious udders.

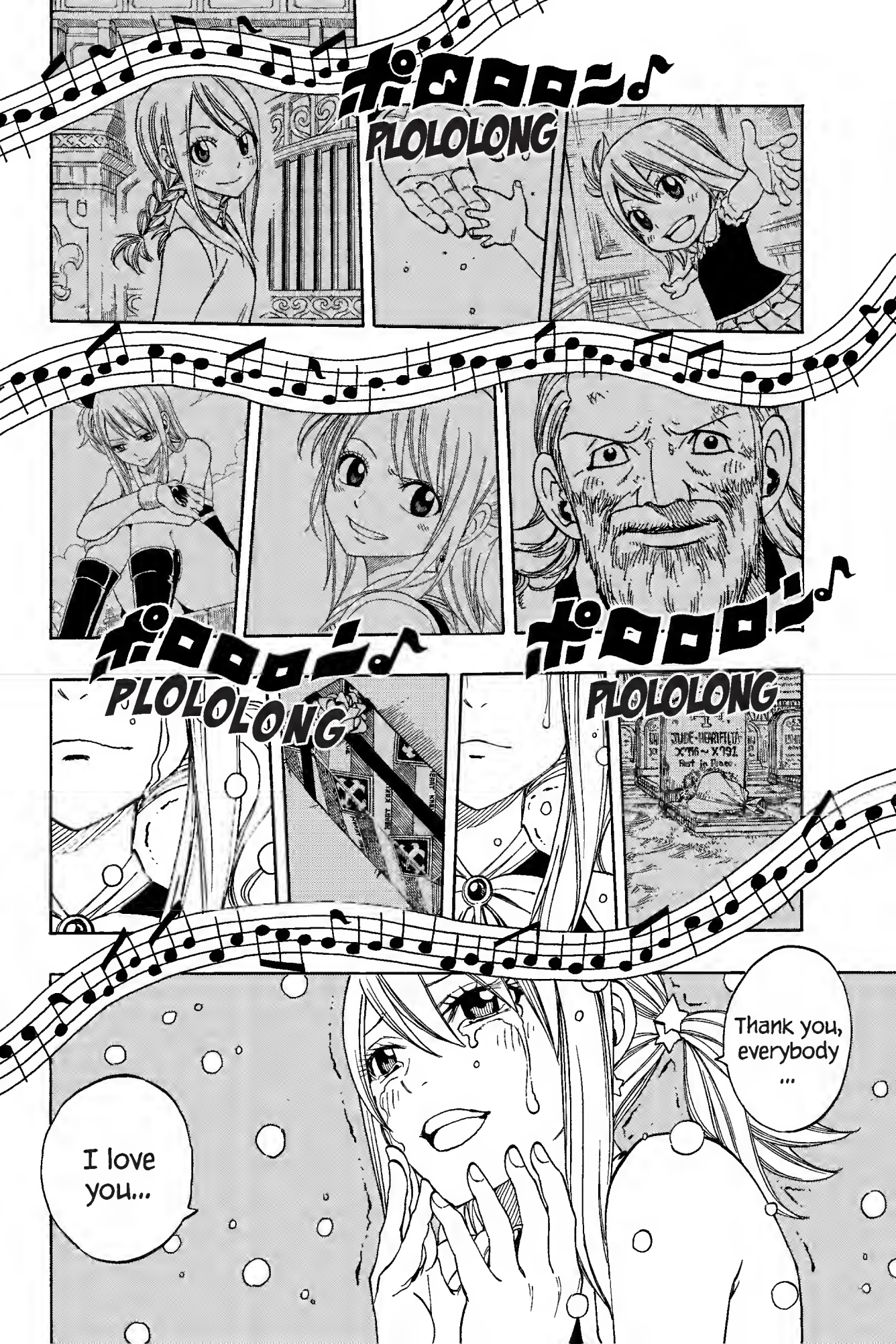
You know, this place is really odd.
PUUN
PUUN
PUUN
PUUN
I'b zorry!!
はははは
RALFRALFRALF
And this is ram steak with hamel sauce!
Crab pescatore with stardust butter on the side.
Aries the Ram
Cancer the Crab
...but you are the first ever to be invited here.
Of course that is only natural. You may be an old friend...
I had no idea that the Celestial World looked like this either.
Which one is my Plue?
PUUN
PUUN
PUUN
PLOLOLINK
PLOLINK
PLOLONN
Wait!! What is that for?!!
RUSTLE
It means they accept you as somebody special!

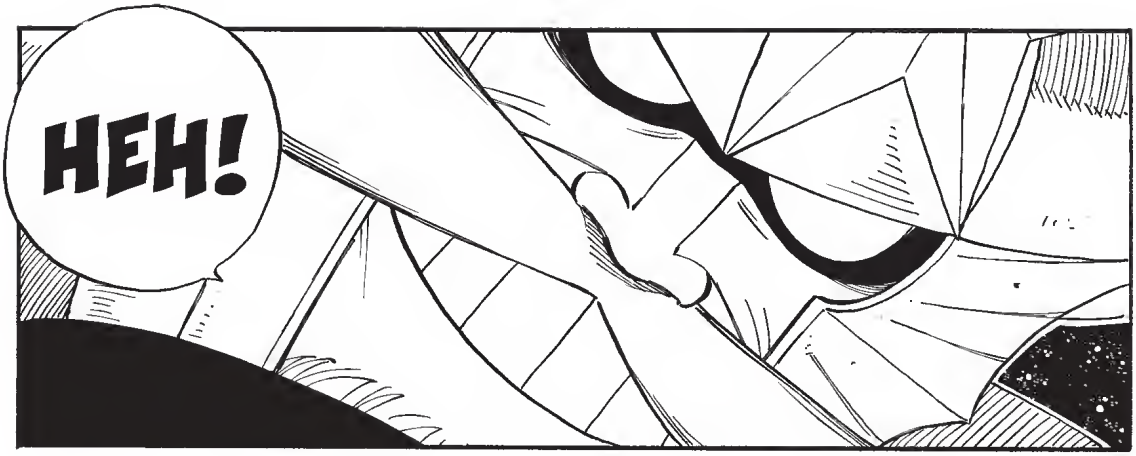
You are here...
...beside me.
PLOLOLIN
Old friend...
...this I see...
PLOLON
The vow I make...
TWIRL くね
TWIRL くね
Old friend...
...shall never break.
...says that our bonds...

Setting out on the road...
...to the limitless wild...
Tears endured; toward tomorrow ...
Stars shine for *you*, my child!

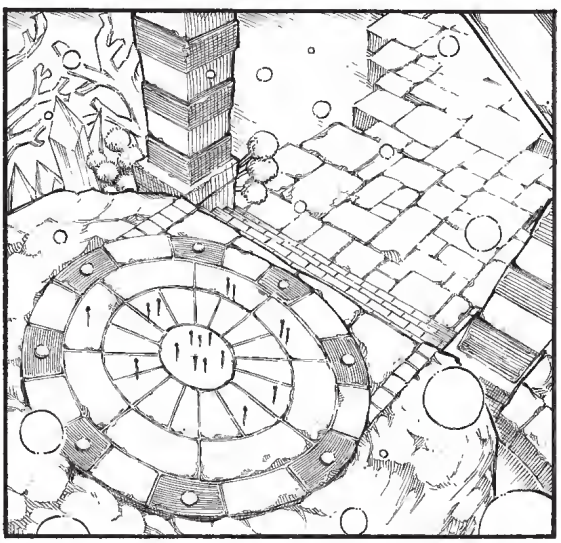

I will shine...
And so prolong, for you, your song...
To see your smile divine.


ポロロン♪ PLOLON
ポロロン♪ PLOLON
ポロロン♪ PLOLON
ポロロン♪ PLOLON


ポロロロン♪
PLOLOLONG
ポロロロン♪
PLOLOLONG
ポロロロン♪
PLOLOLONG
Thank you, everybody ...
I love you...


HEH!

You *ate* it?! You *ate* that stuff, Gray?!!
I never had such great food before!
Yes... We made merry to the furthest extent of our abilities.
Pat
Pat

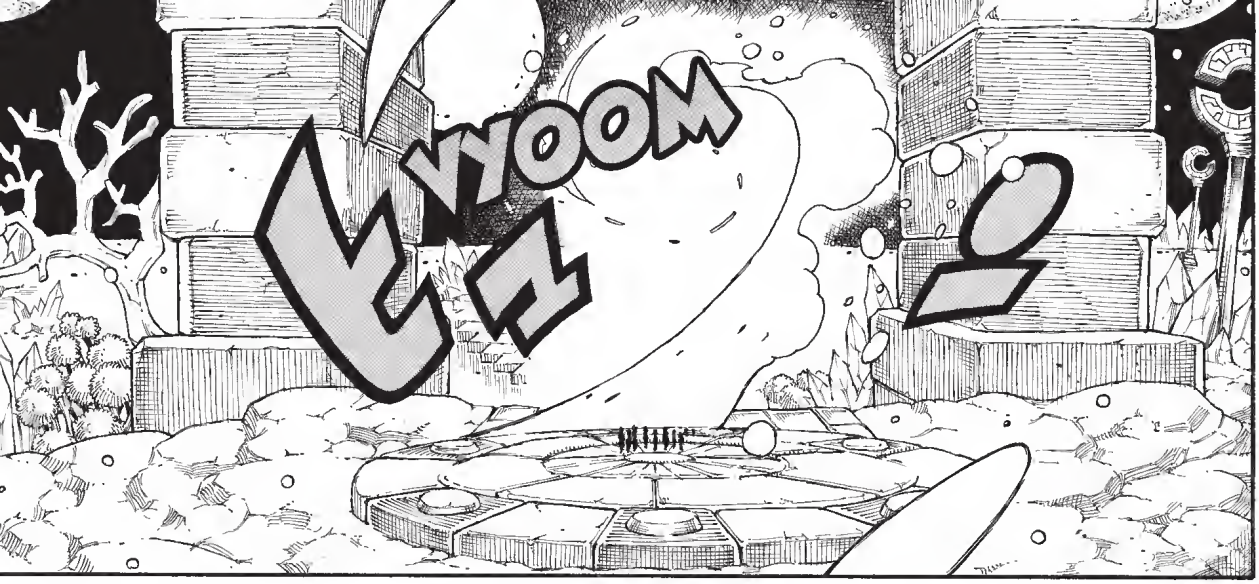


Remember, old friend, that we shall watch over you!

Not as hard as *you've* had it, Aquarius-san!
I can see you've had a hard time of it!
Those two strangely seem to see eye-to-eye.
A weird Plue doesn't want to let me go...
Bluun!
Bluun!

I've... always wanted clothes like this!
Are you sure I can have this?

Yeah !!!
Hey, we'll be seeing you a lot from now on!
You may call upon us whenever you wish.
I'll show up at the guild now and then.
Everybody, please keep taking good care of Lucy!
And thus...
...we bid the stars guide and protect our old friend!!!!
WHOOSH


KYOOM

We've had some fun, but we should get training again as soon as we get back!
True!!! We have only three months to catch up to the other guilds!!

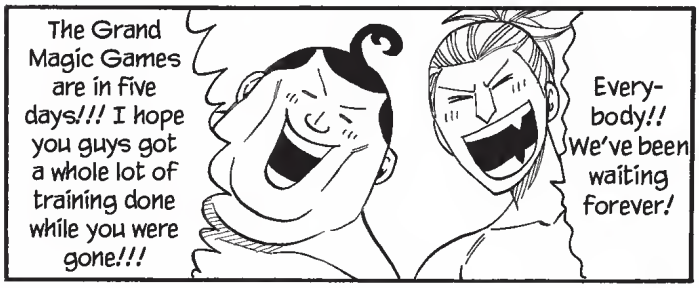
The Celestial Spirits truly love you.
They really *are* great friends!

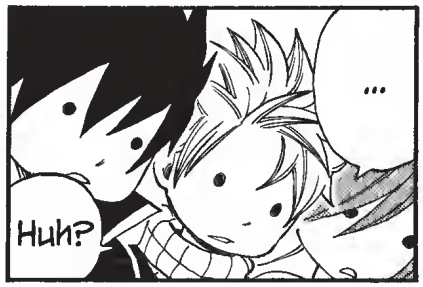
Like a year here is like a single day in the human world? That kinda thing?
That would be like the training zone of our dreams!!!!

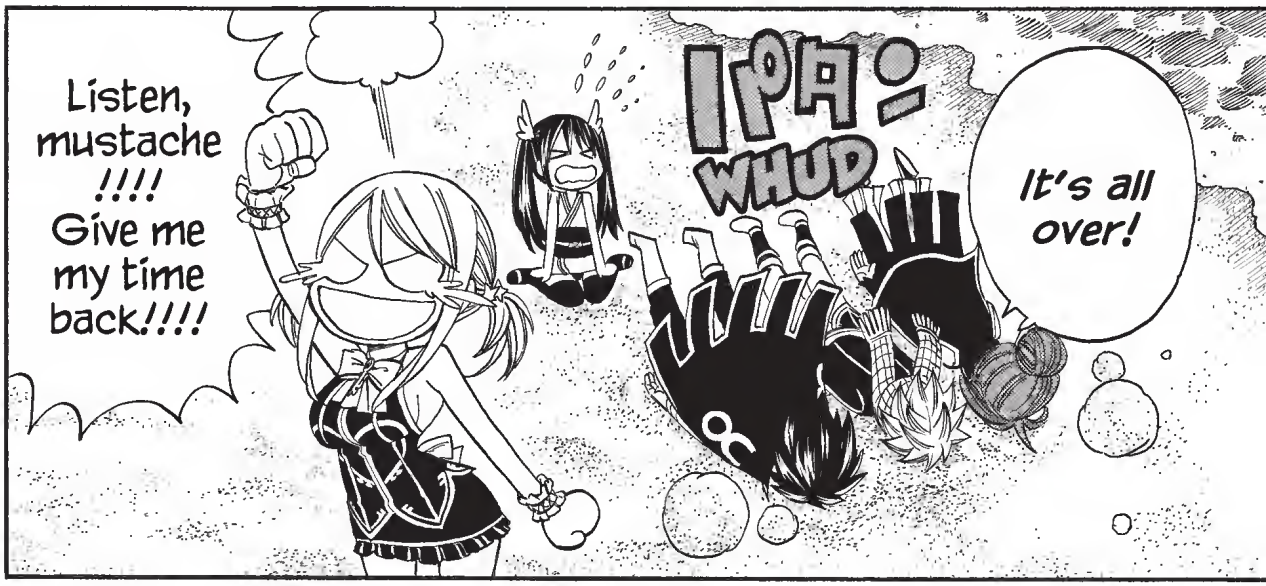
The Celestial World and the Human World experience time differently.
You're kidding! You mean...

There was one thing we may have forgotten to mention.
?

FWOOOOO
No, the opposite.
One day spent in the Celestial World takes up three months in the human world.


The Grand Magic Games are in five days!!! I hope you guys got a whole lot of training done while you were gone!!!
Every-body!! We've been waiting forever!


...
Huh?


Listen, mustache !!!! Give me my time back!!!!
IPA-WHUD
It's all over!

FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL

Name: Jet (Real name: Sarusuke)

Age: 25

Magic: High Speed

Likes: Sushi, Levy

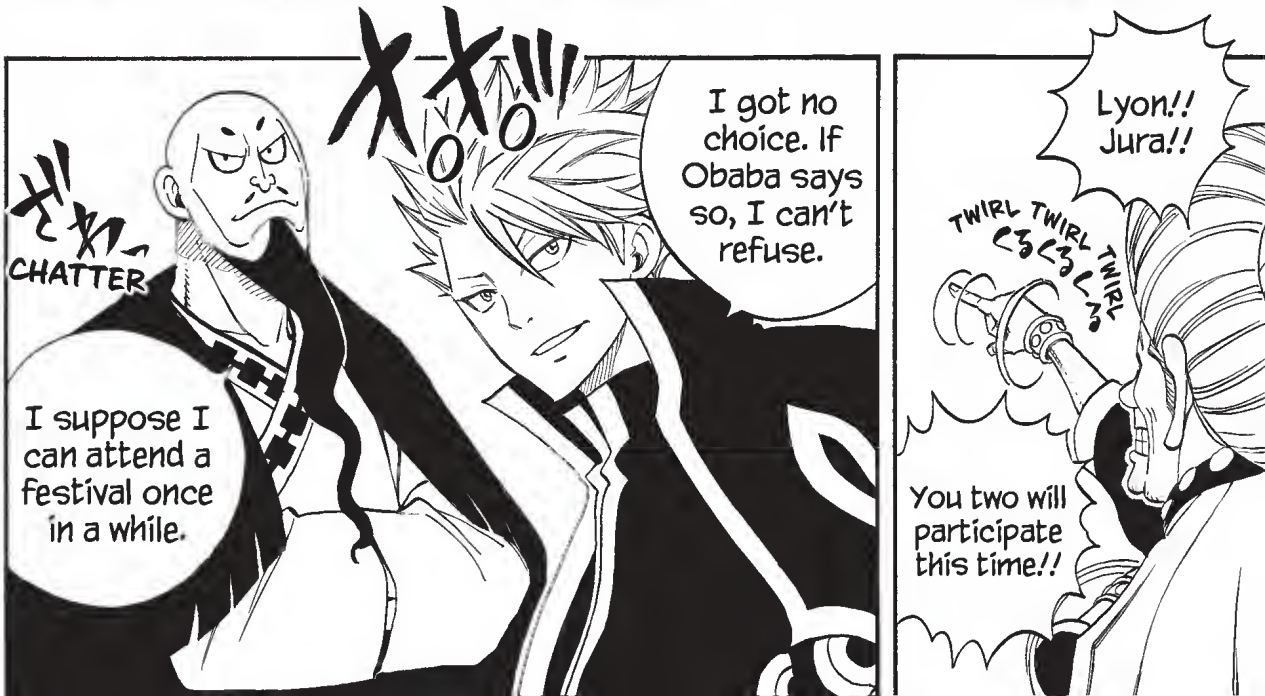
Dislikes: Shrimp

Remarks

One of the three members of the Fairy Tail team "Shadow Gear," along with Levy and Droy. During the time that Levy was absent, he and Droy did their jobs together.
He used to be in love with Levy, but during her seven-year absence, he's had a couple of girlfriends. They were both nice girls, but he's broken up with both of them now. Once Levy returned, his feelings for her returned as well, but now that he sees that Levy may have feelings for Gajeel, there's a part of him who simply wishes for her happiness.

Chapter 263: Crime Sorcière

Wizard Guild Lamia Scale...
So up until now, you've been thinking of this as just another festival, right?! Well, that attitude will not fly *this* year!!!
TWIRL
Baba's started talking to herself again!
She sure yells a lot!
This can't be!!! It is a bad joke!!!
The Grand Magic Games?!! Every year we come up second-best!!!
LAMIA SCALE MASTER
OHBA BABASAAMA


CHATTER
I got no choice. If Obaba says so, I can't refuse.
I suppose I can attend a festival once in a while.
Lyon!! Jura!!
TWIRL
You two will participate this time!!

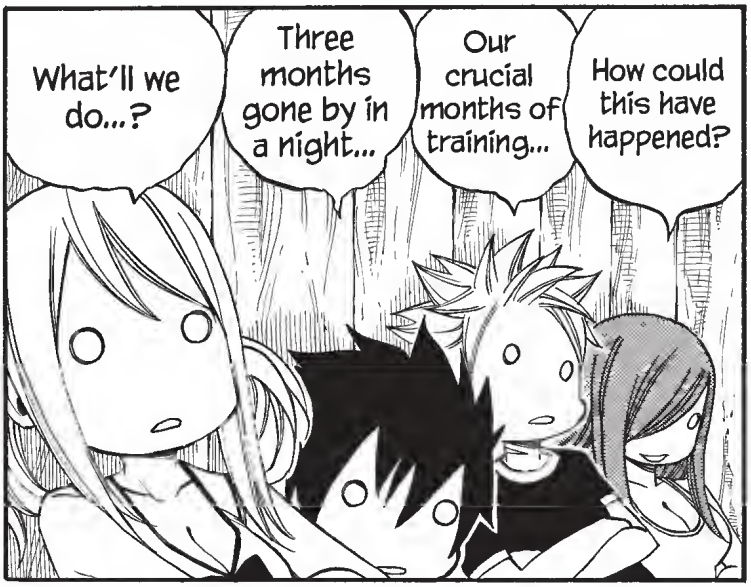
BLUE PEGASUS
Wizard Guild Blue Pegasus ...
So it seems that the wizard saint Jura is entering this year.
Lamia will be Fiore's No. 1 guild!!!
That means we're gonna win for sure!!!
You mean Lyon and Jura are in it this year?
And we were trying to win the thing ourselves this year! ♡
Then let's release our own secret weapon.
I-Is that so? That's pretty stinky perfume there.
Wizard Guild Saber Tooth
You serious ?
Now that's something to look forward to.
Right?
Rogue ?
Not interested.
Yeah. That's the rumor going around Magnolia.
You're saying Natsu is going to be in the Grand Magic Games this year?
Fro heard so also!

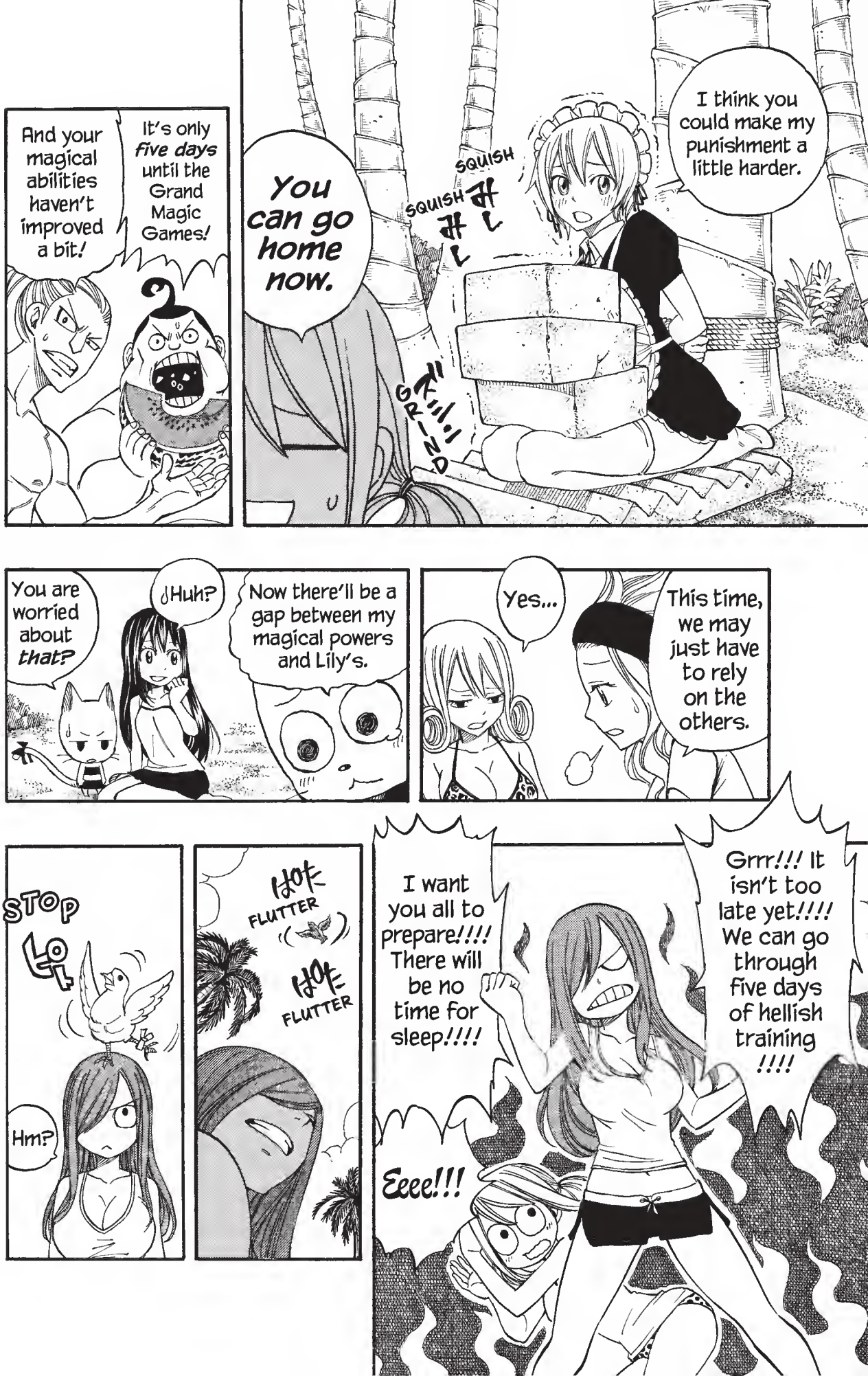
You made me wait seven years...
Makarov, you little...
The time when we blot out the name of the fairies...
...has come!
This year's Grand Magic Games are going to be fun!
WIZARD GUILD
RAVEN TAIL

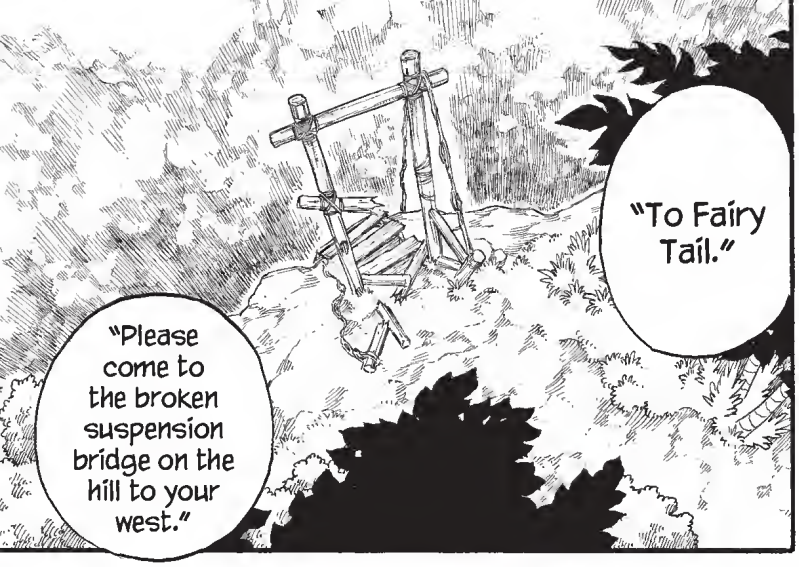
ザザ アアア
SHUUUSH

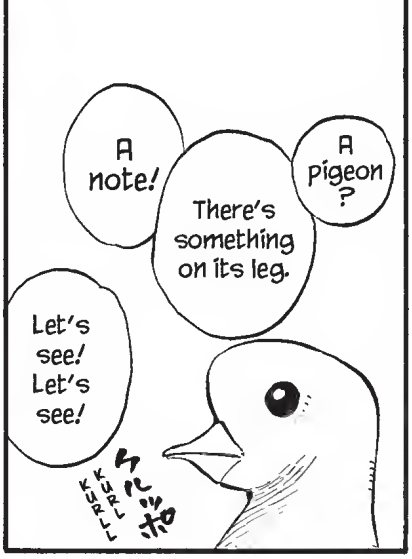
ばばば
BLAAAAAH

...I have a suggestion.
Princess...


What'll we do...?
Three months gone by in a night...
Our crucial months of training...
How could this have happened?

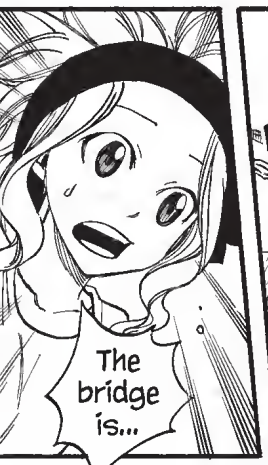

I think you could make my punishment a little harder.
SQUISH
SQUISH
GRIND
You can go home now.
It's only five days until the Grand Magic Games!
And your magical abilities haven't improved a bit!
Yes...
This time, we may just have to rely on the others.
Huh?
You are worried about that?
Now there'll be a gap between my magical powers and Lily's.
STOP
Hm?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
I want you all to prepare!!!! There will be no time for sleep!!!!
Grrr!!! It isn't too late yet!!!! We can go through five days of hellish training !!!!
Eeee!!!


"To Fairy Tail."
"Please come to the broken suspension bridge on the hill to your west."


A note!
There's something on its leg.
A pigeon?
Let's see! Let's see!
KURU KURU クルッポ

KEEEEEEEEN
!

Just a prank...
There ain't nobody here!
I told you we shouldn't have come!
Why do you look like you're picking a fight?


The bridge is...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

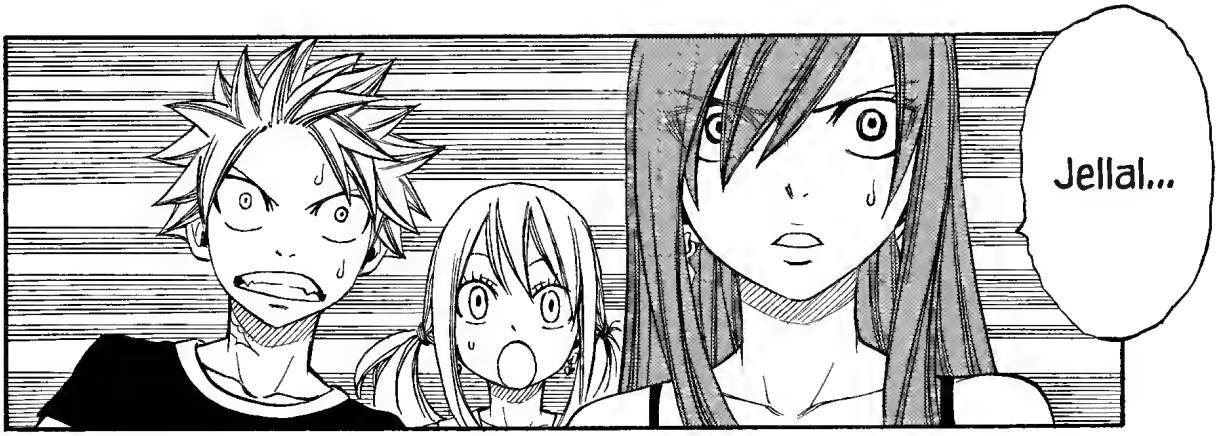
What is...

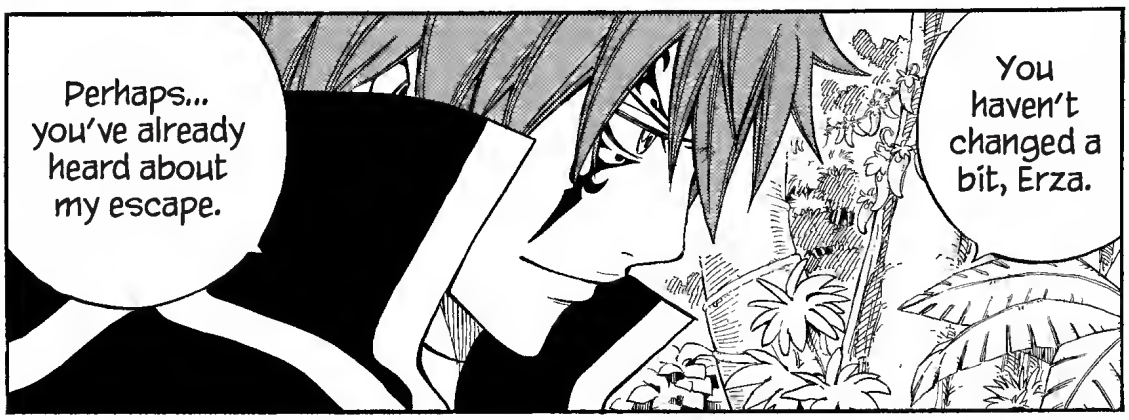
KLAK KLAK KLAK

...fixed ?!!!
GRASSH'L
It's connected to the other side again!!!
I don't know who did this, but I'm gonna go!
I'm kinda scared!
Seems like a trap to me.
Are they telling us to cross?
HOLLOLOLO...
HOLLOLOLO...
WEE!
WEE!
WEE!

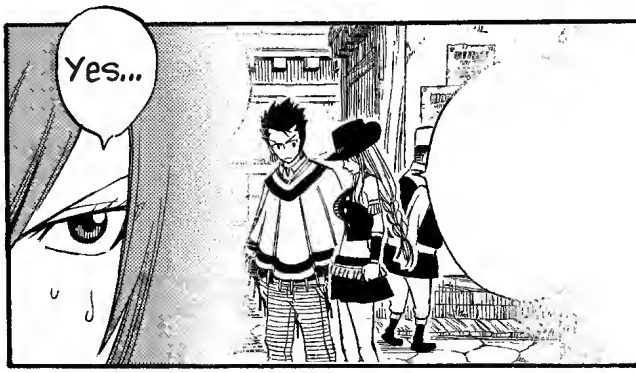
SHKK
Everyone, take care!
Somebody's over there!!
!
Thank you all for coming.
FSSH
FSSH
Fairy Tail.

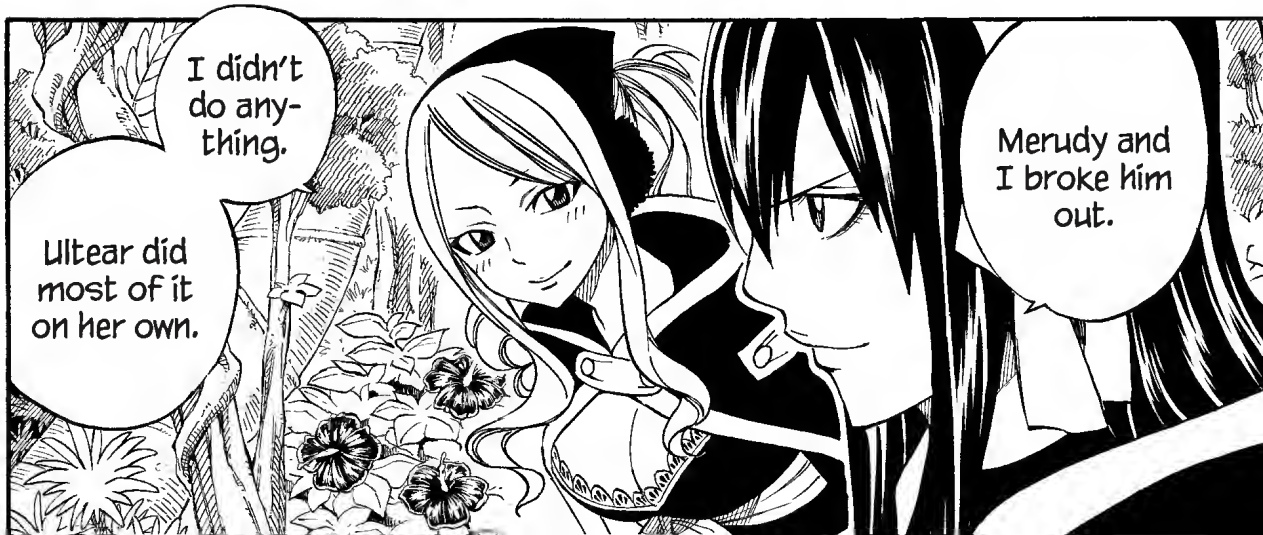
BOOM


Jellal...


Perhaps... you've already heard about my escape.
You haven't changed a bit, Erza.

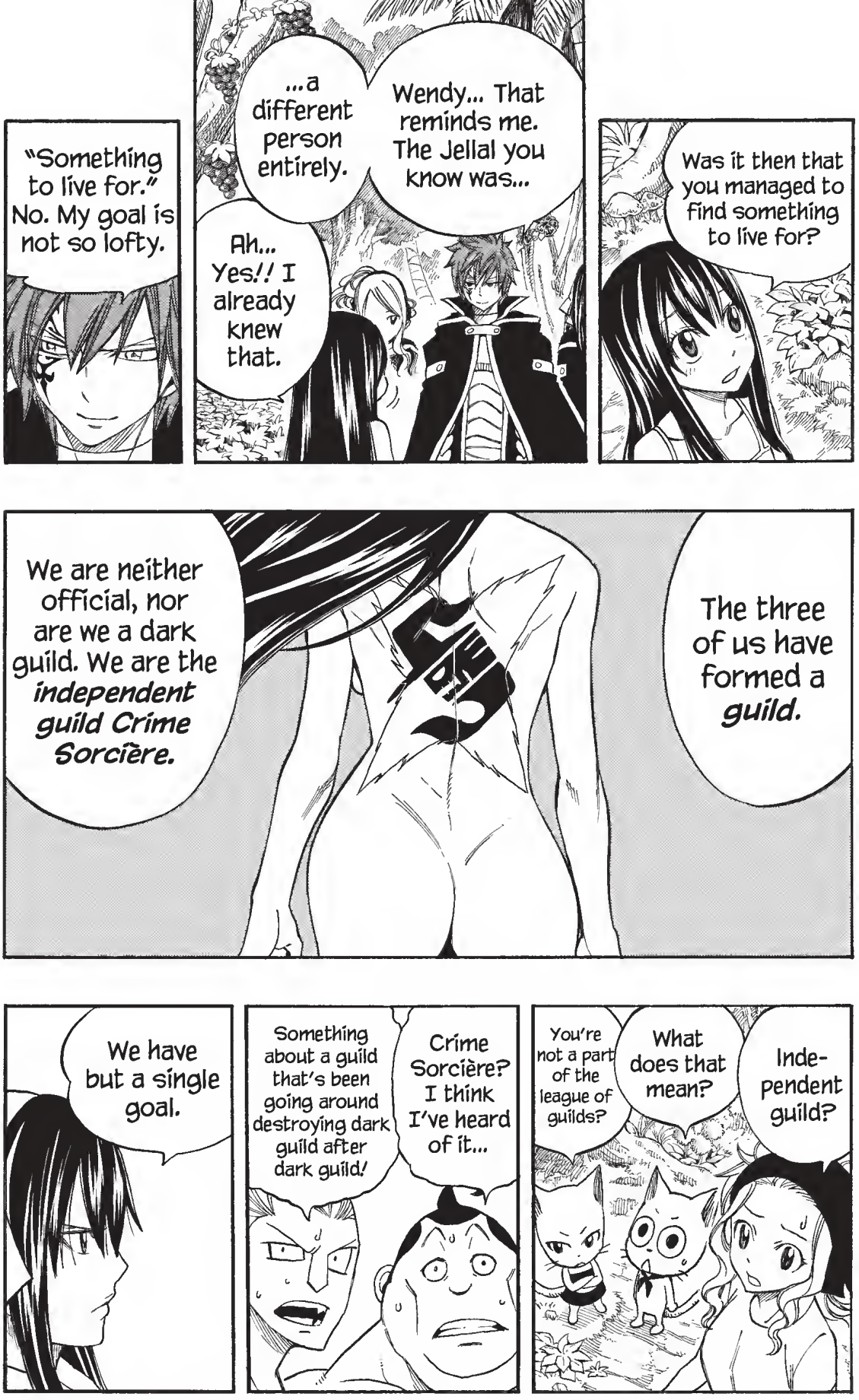
I didn't want it to turn out that way.

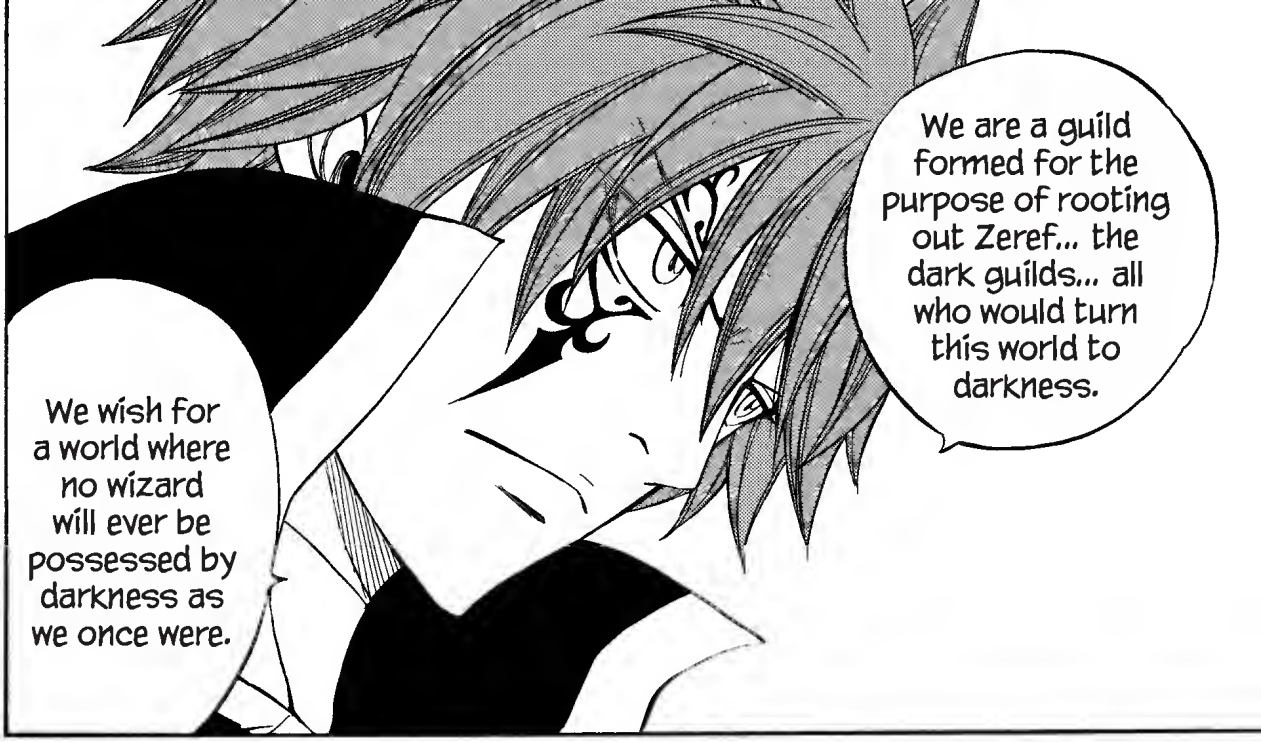

Yes...


I didn't do anything.
Ultear did most of it on her own.
Merudy and I broke him out.

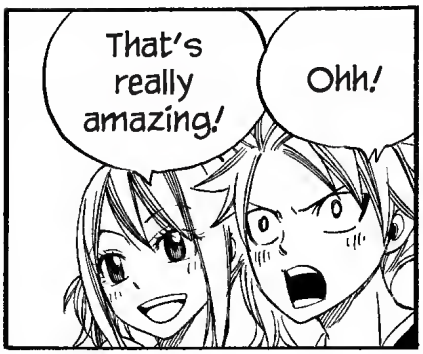
She can smile so happily now!
SMILE
Juvia!
It's been a long time!
Merudy!
No matter what I do, the crimes I committed in my youth cannot be paid for, even in a lifetime of atonement.
Yet...at the very least, my wish is to save some of the people whose lives my actions warped. At least, that is my intention.
Hey! Wait! They're not enemies now.
Those two are from Grimoire ...
Jellal escaped prison?
We aren't.
You aren't, are you?
Jellal... Your memories...
That is the past.
Do not worry about me. Both you and I were possessed by the darkness.
Jellal, for example.

Every last one.
Fully returned.
Erza... I truly... don't know what to say to you...
They started... to return six years ago, while I was still impris-oned.
My life was supposed to end in jail. A death sentence.
And I came to accept that.
At least, until the moment Ultear and Merudy broke me out.
I was responsible for what happened at the Tower of Heaven.
I had Jellal under my control.
So I hope you won't hold it against *him*.
...

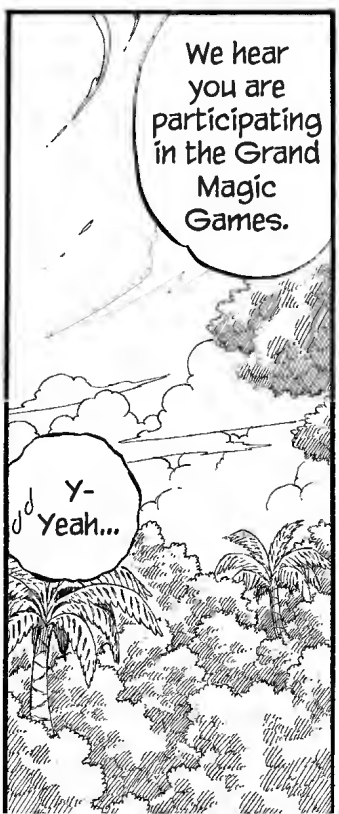

"Something to live for." No. My goal is not so lofty.
Ah... Yes!! I already knew that.
...a different person entirely.
Wendy... That reminds me. The Jellal you know was...
Was it then that you managed to find something to live for?
We are neither official, nor are we a dark guild. We are the *independent guild Crime Sorcière.*
The three of us have formed a *guild.*
We have but a single goal.
Something about a guild that's been going around destroying dark guild after dark guild!
Crime Sorcière? I think I've heard of it...
You're not a part of the league of guilds?
What does that mean?
Inde-pendent guild?


We are a guild formed for the purpose of rooting out Zeref... the dark guilds... all who would turn this world to darkness.
We wish for a world where no wizard will ever be possessed by darkness as we once were.

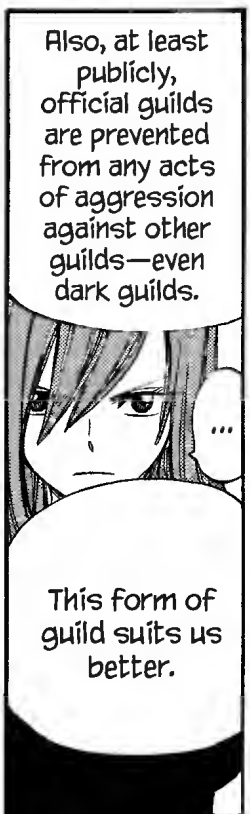
And we're originally from Grimoire Heart.
I'm an escaped prisoner.
It'd be nice if the Magic Council recognized your guild as an official guild.


That's really amazing!
Ohh!

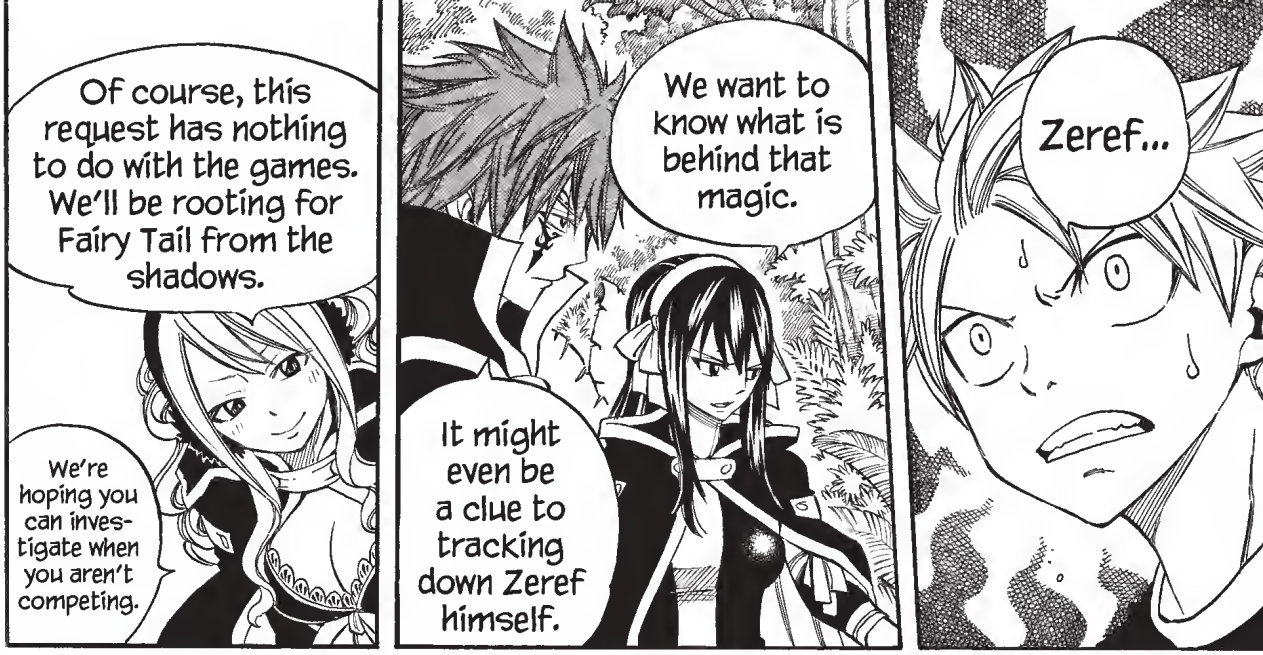
Therefore, we have a favor to request of you.
We cannot go near the stadium.
You want somebody's autograph?
Not as such.

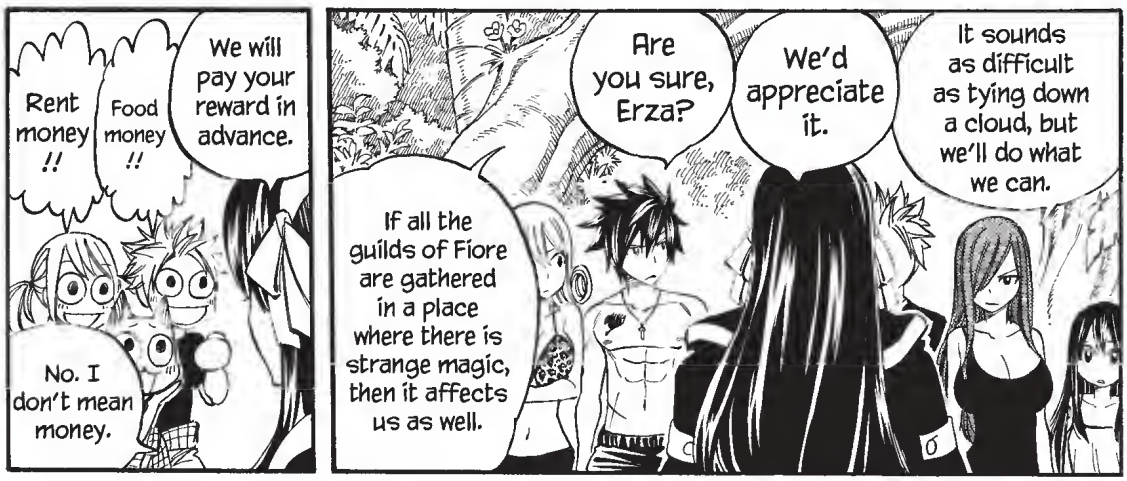

We hear you are participating in the Grand Magic Games.
Y-Yeah...

Now... We didn't actually call you here to introduce ourselves.

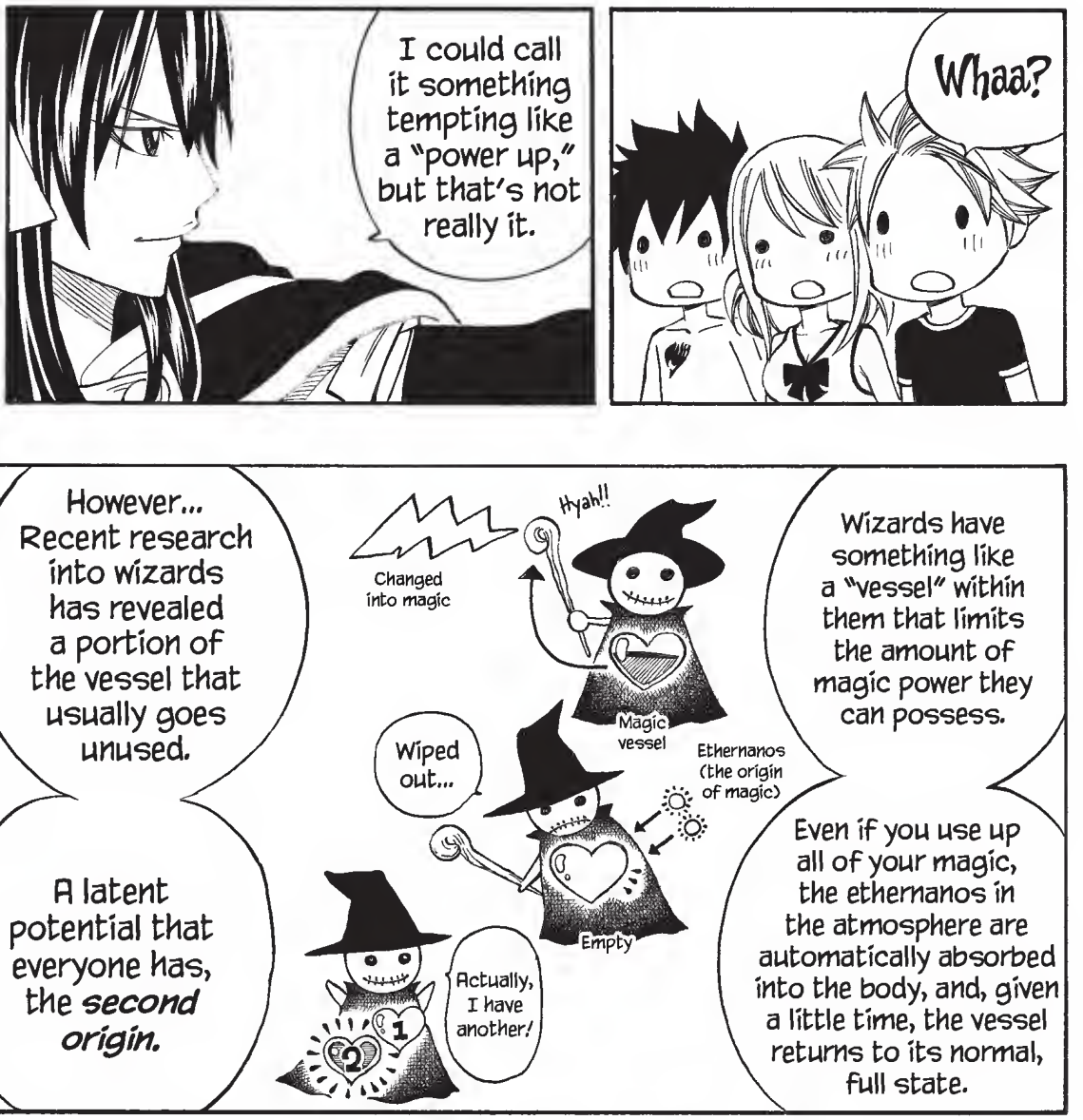

Also, at least publicly, official guilds are prevented from any acts of aggression against other guilds—even dark guilds.
...
This form of guild suits us better.

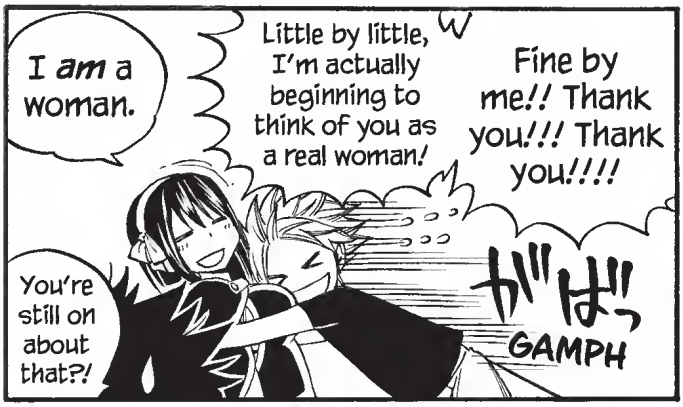
Every year during the festival, we sense a very odd style of magic.
We'd like you to find out what it is.
What do you mean?
It's a gathering of all the guilds throughout Fiore, right? There's bound to be a trace of suspicious magic.
At first, we thought so too.
But that magic seems evil, like Zeref's.
Maybe we noticed it because we were all too close to Zeref once.


Zeref...
We want to know what is behind that magic.
It might even be a clue to tracking down Zeref himself.
Of course, this request has nothing to do with the games. We'll be rooting for Fairy Tail from the shadows.
We're hoping you can investigate when you aren't competing.

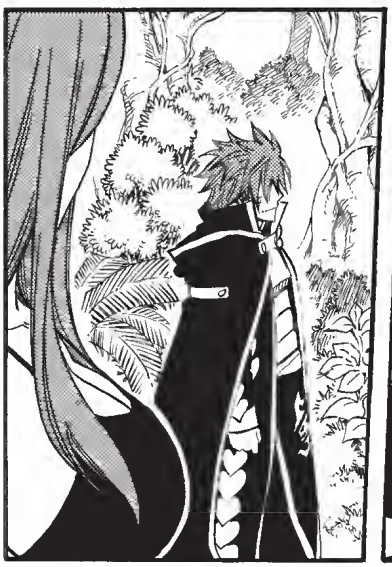

It sounds as difficult as tying down a cloud, but we'll do what we can.
We'd appreciate it.
Are you sure, Erza?
If all the guilds of Fiore are gathered in a place where there is strange magic, then it affects us as well.
We will pay your reward in advance.
Food money !!
Rent money !!
No. I don't mean money.

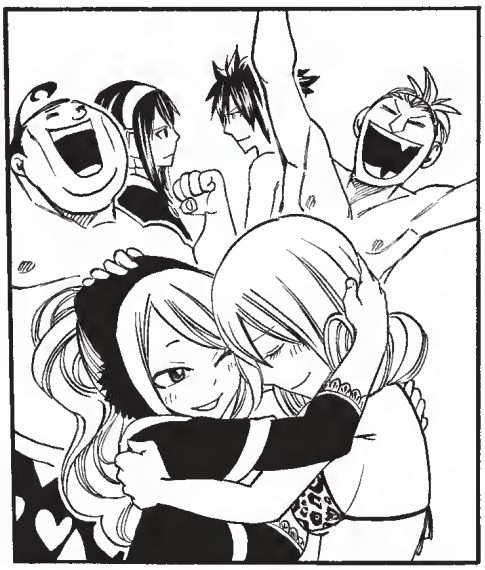
I've improved my Arc of Time.
It can help to advance your abilities, as well.

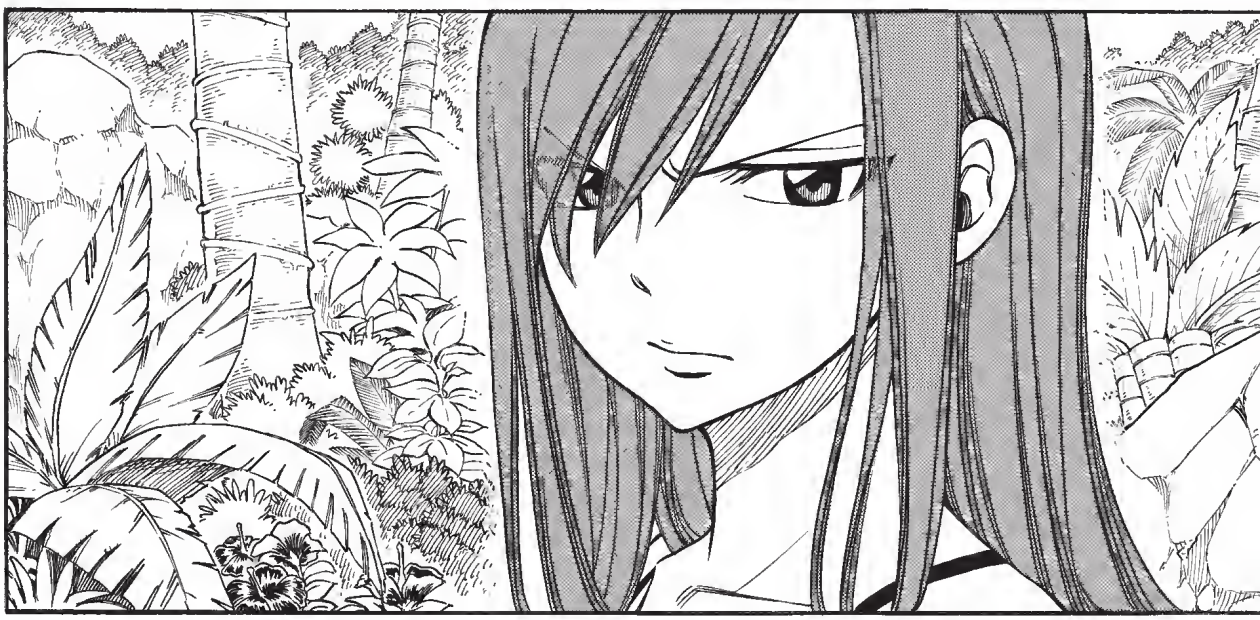

I could call it something tempting like a "power up," but that's not really it.
Whaa?
However... Recent research into wizards has revealed a portion of the vessel that usually goes unused.
A latent potential that everyone has, the second origin.
Changed into magic
Hyah!!
Magic vessel
Wizards have something like a "vessel" within them that limits the amount of magic power they can possess.
Wiped out...
Ethernanos (the origin of magic)
Empty
Even if you use up all of your magic, the ethernanos in the atmosphere are automatically absorbed into the body, and, given a little time, the vessel returns to its normal, full state.
Actually, I have another!
1
2
OOOHH!!!!
I don't get it at all!!
In other words, it will allow you to use your magic for a longer period of time, or use stronger magics you couldn't before.
My Arc of Time speeds up the development of that vessel, making it so you can use your second origin.


I am a woman.
Little by little, I'm actually beginning to think of you as a real woman!
Fine by me!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!!
You're still on about that?!
GAMPH

Scary eyes!
Ahhh ...
However... You will also have to endure pain beyond your imagination.







FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL

Name: Droy

Age: 25

Magic: Plant

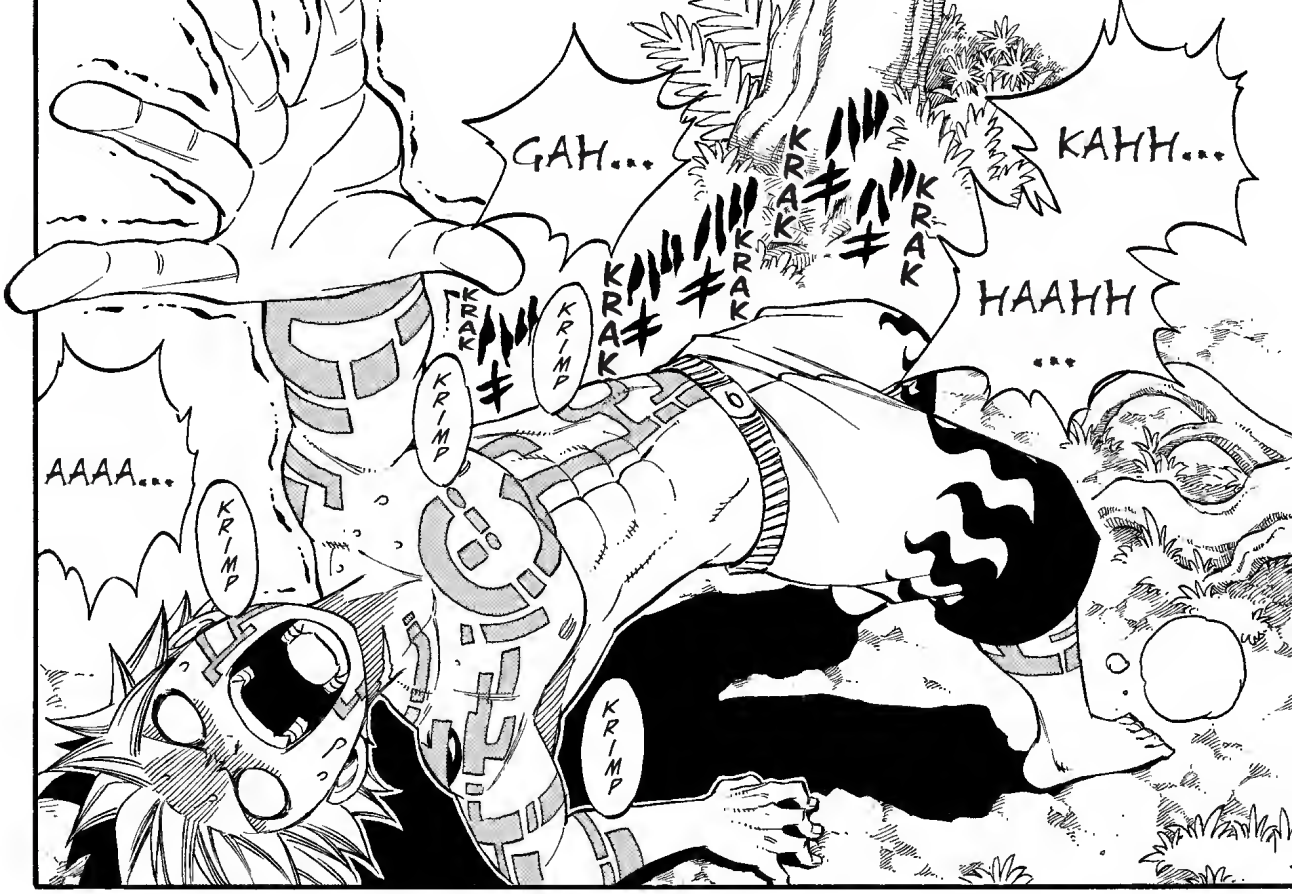
Likes: Food

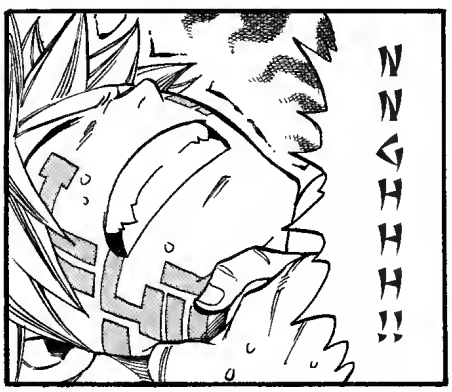
Dislikes: Spiders

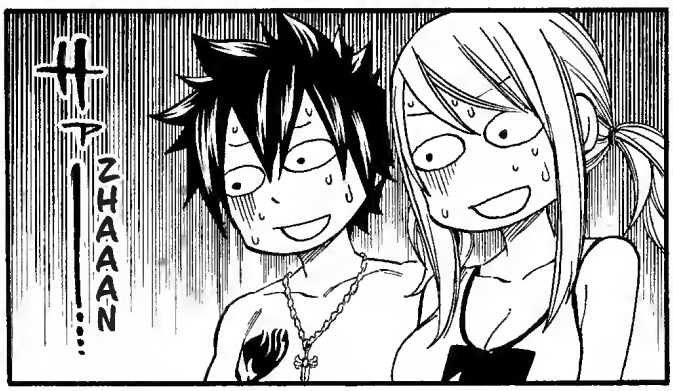
Remarks

Seven years ago, he was a thin wizard, but he awakened his love of food, and his body type changed before anybody noticed. During the period when his partner Jet had his girlfriends, he would try to act strong, saying, "Steak is my love interest!" to everyone who would listen. But his frustration resulted only in more weight gain. He fell in love a number of times, but when he tried to ask them out, they would always reject him. Now that Levy is back, his old feelings for her have returned, but he's also noticed that Levy may have fallen for Gajeel, and seeing that has resulted only in more weight gain.

Chapter 264: Only the Amount of Time Lost

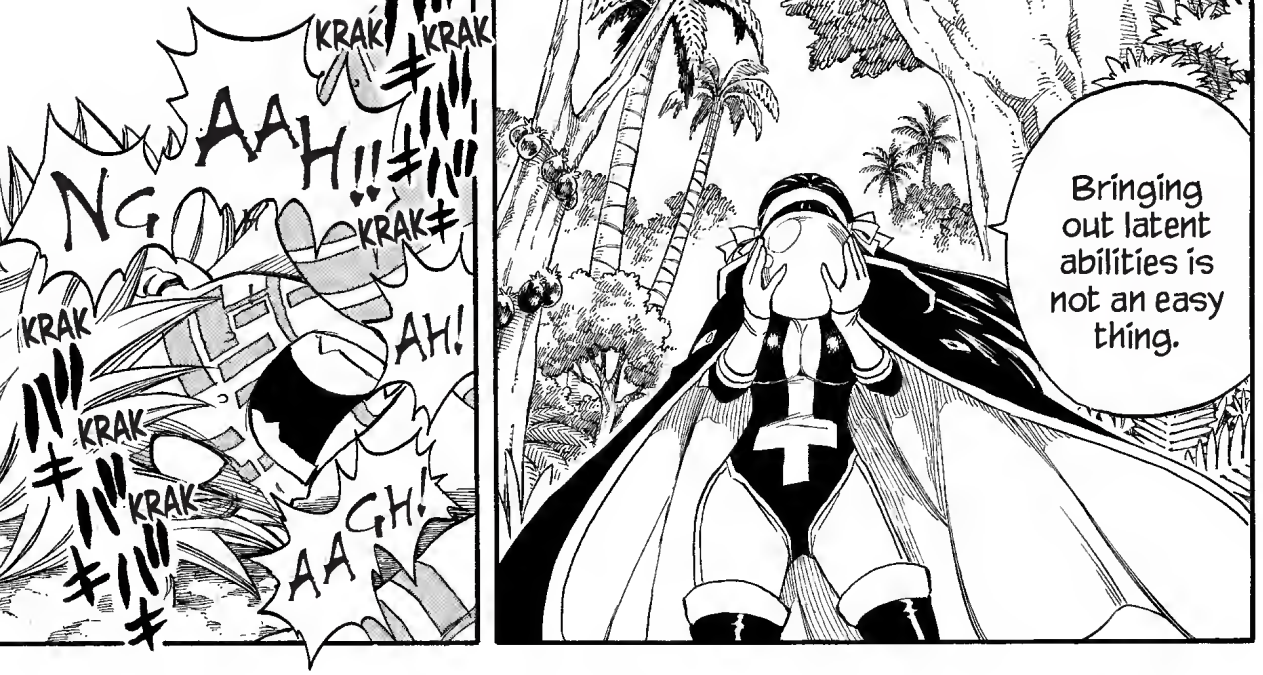

GAH...
KAHH...
HAAHH...
AAAA...
KRAK
KRIMP


NNGHHH!!

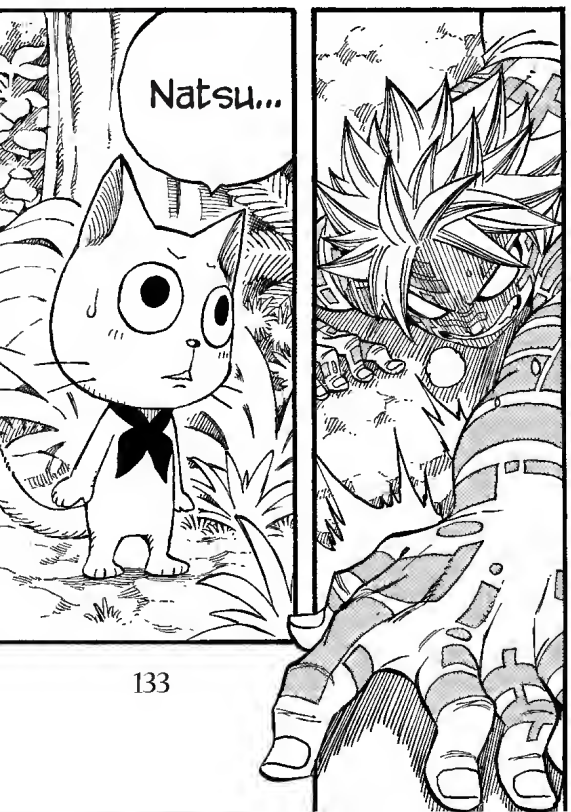

ZHAAAN

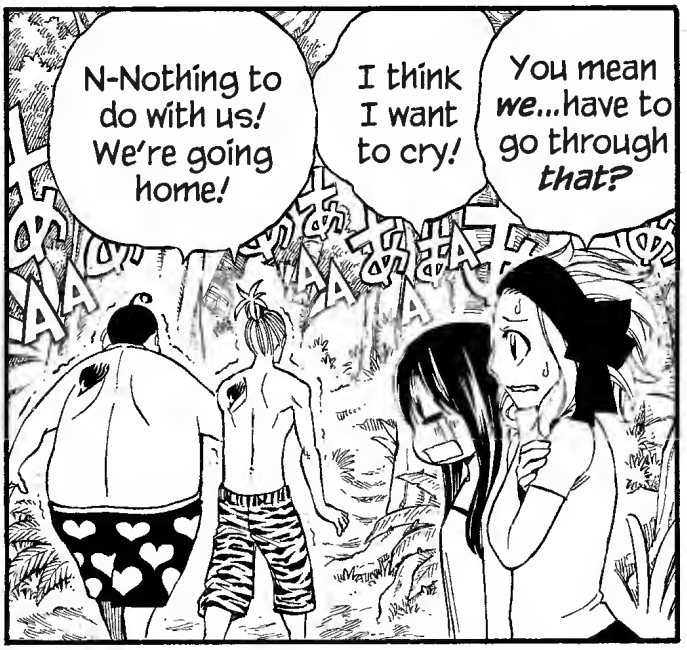
Hang in there.

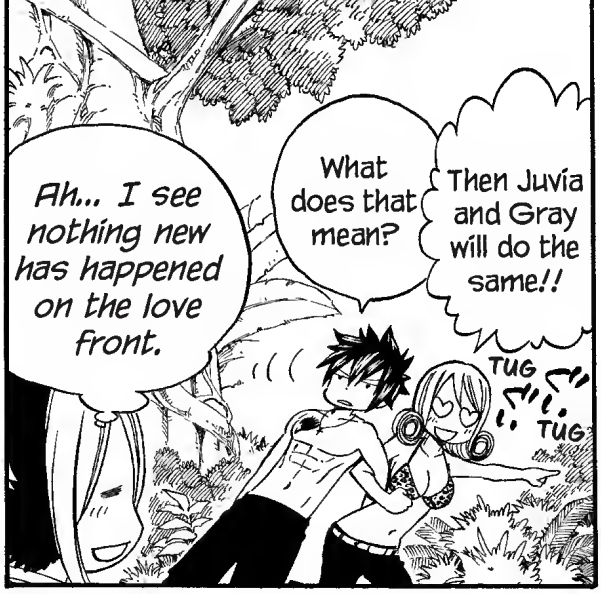
I don't think *you* have to worry about that, right?
So, for her to write the magic marks, we have to remove our clothes...?
BAM BAM
ROLL ROLL
OOGH


KRAK
KRAK
AAH!!
KRAK
NG
KRAK
AH!
KRAK
KRAK
AAGH!
Bringing out latent abilities is not an easy thing.

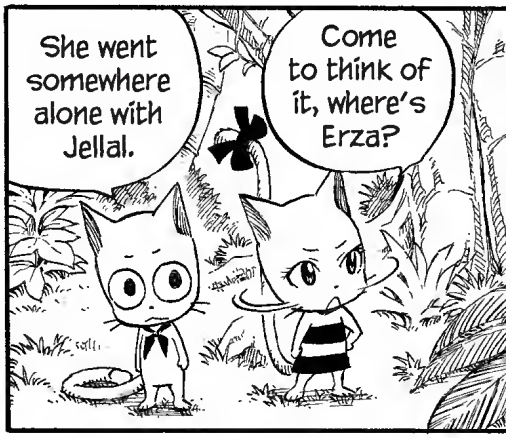
Ahh... Merudy's even telling jokes!
Don't even joke about that!!
Would you like to try a Sense Link?
How painful is that thing supposed to be?
Wait... Are you sure he's going to be okay?
Glimmer

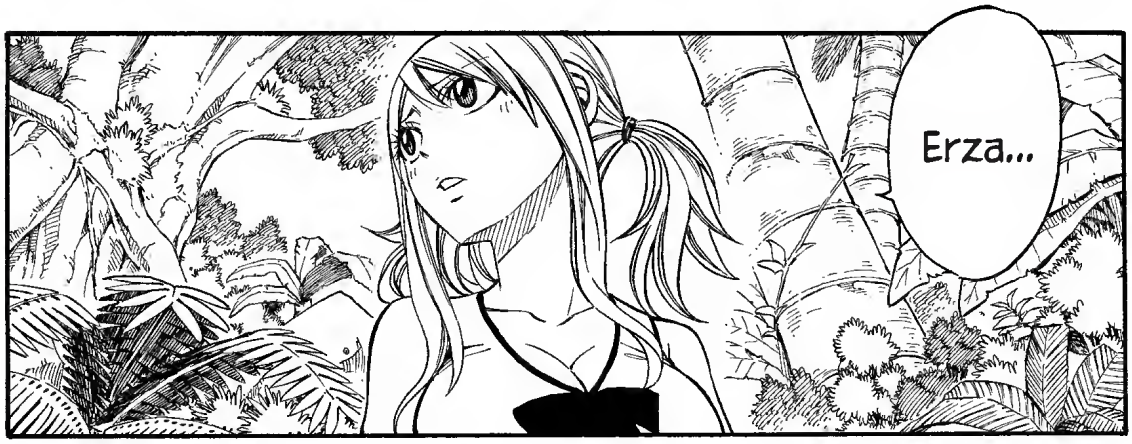

Natsu...

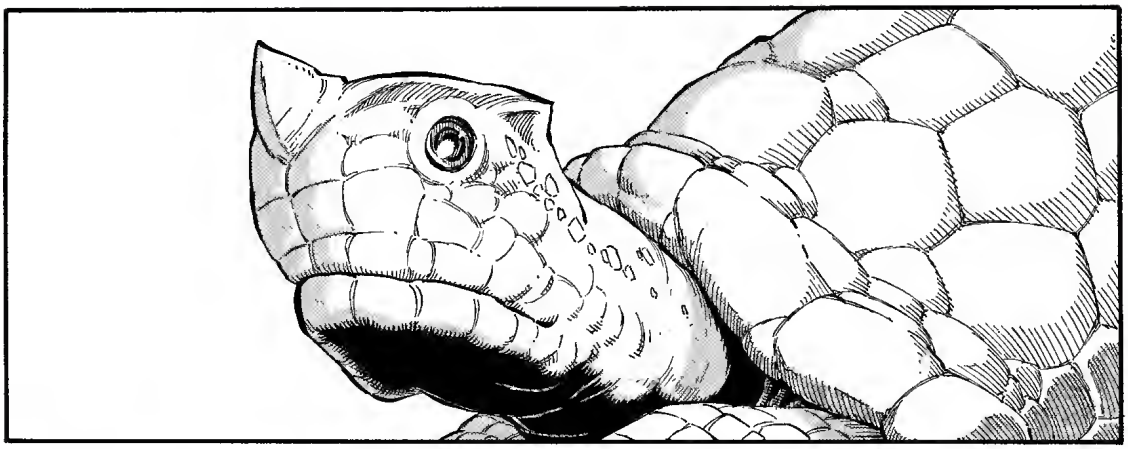

N-Nothing to do with us! We're going home!
I think I want to cry!
You mean we...have to go through that?

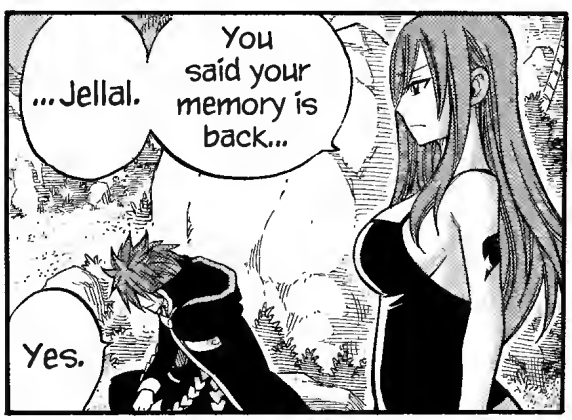

Ah... I see nothing new has happened on the love front.
What does that mean?
Then Juvia and Gray will do the same!!
TUG
TUG

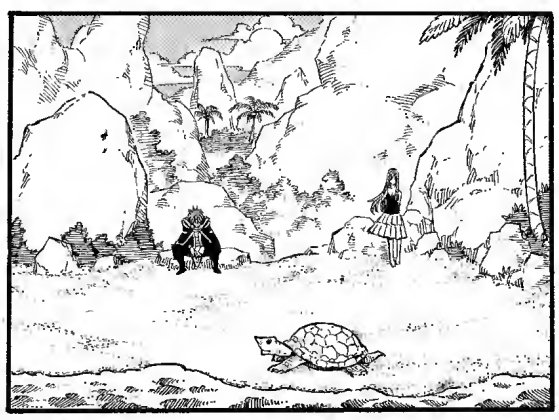
Alone ?!!


She went somewhere alone with Jellal.
Come to think of it, where's Erza?


Erza...



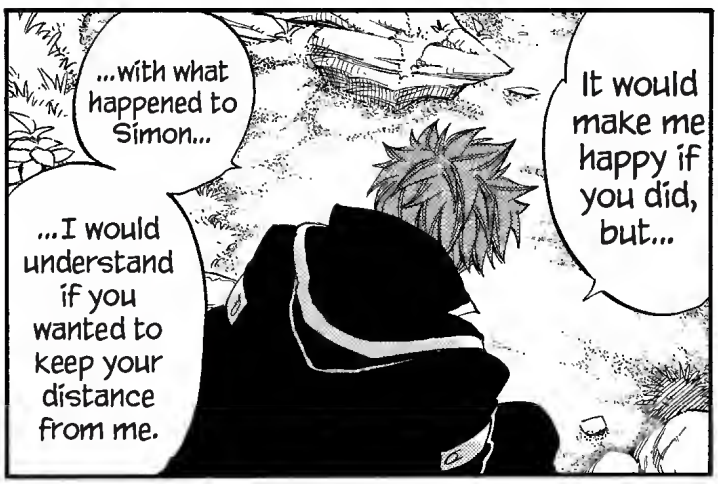

...Jellal.
You said your memory is back...
Yes.

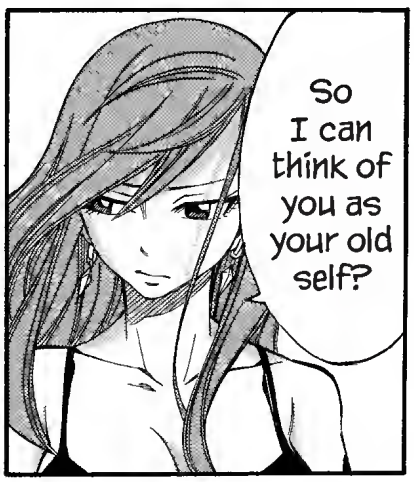


I killed him.

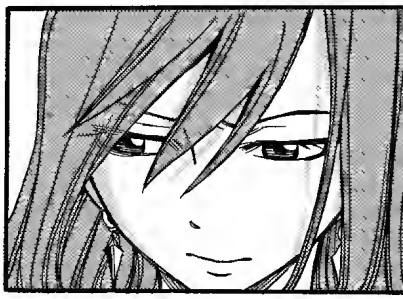
...
Then...what happened to Simon ...

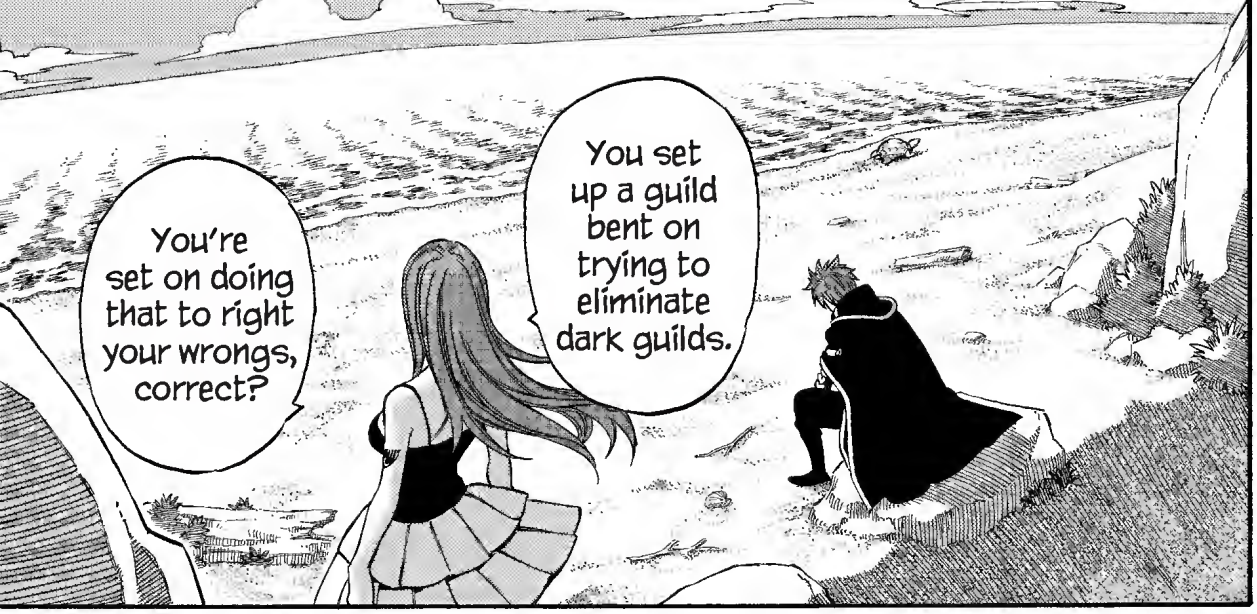
I remember it.
I remember it...as if it were a *self I had forgotten.*
It's a strange feeling.
What about everything that happened with Nirvana?


...with what happened to Simon...
...I would understand if you wanted to keep your distance from me.
It would make me happy if you did, but...

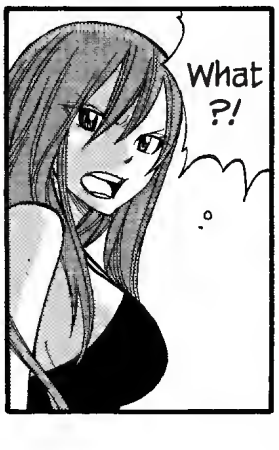

So I can think of you as your old self?

Do you really think Simon would want that?
And if you feel you must get revenge for Simon, then I'm prepared to give up my life.



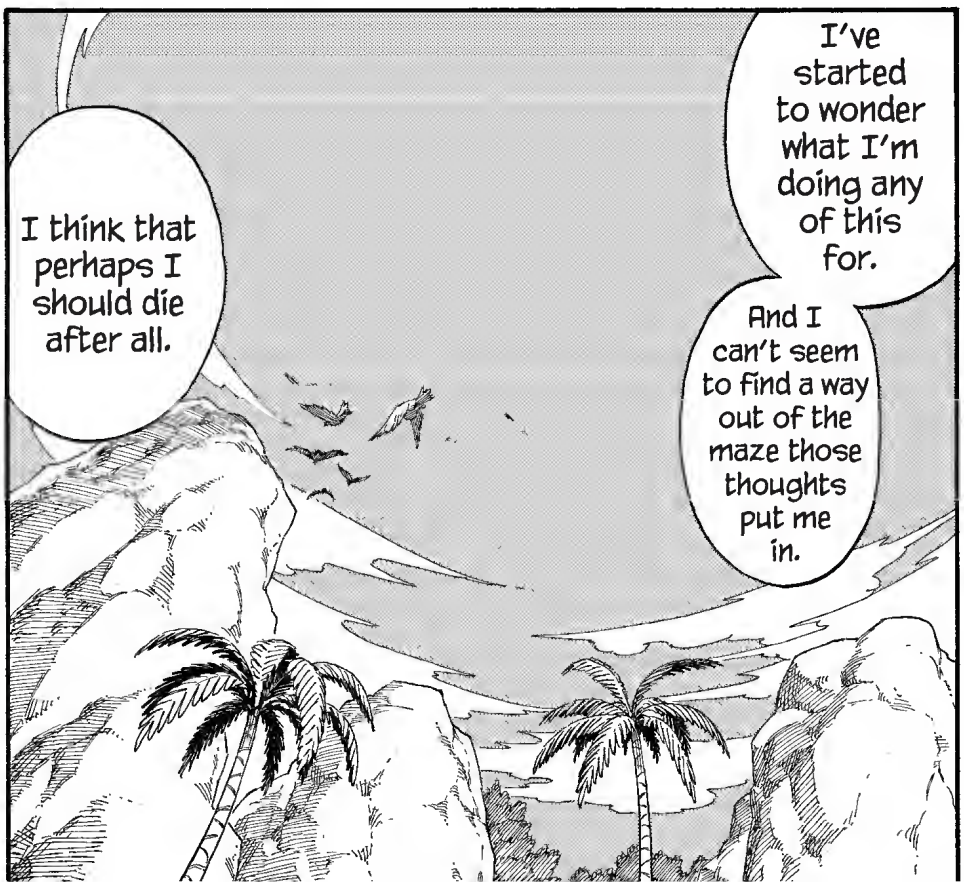

You set up a guild bent on trying to eliminate dark guilds.
You're set on doing that to right your wrongs, correct?

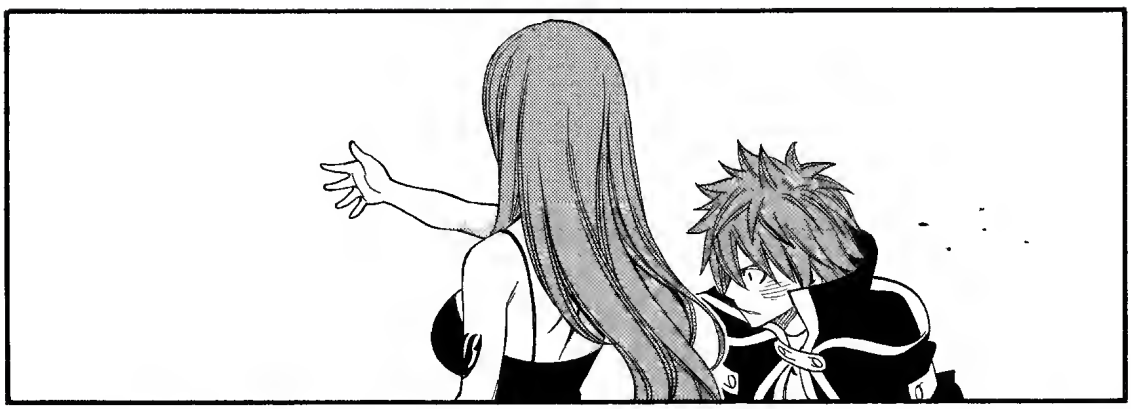
PSHH
It's true that at first, I set up Crime Sorcière to help pay for my crimes.
But I'm beginning to think that nothing can make up for the atrocities I committed at the Tower of Heaven.

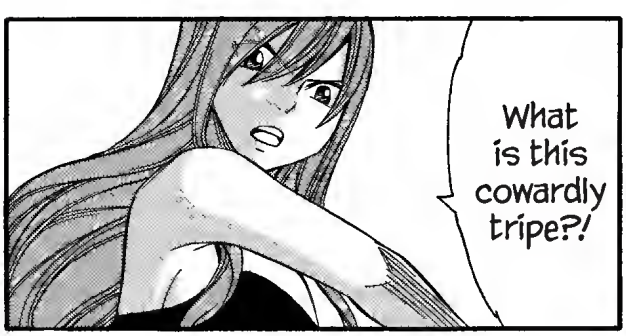

What ?!

I don't really know.

I speak


I've started to wonder what I'm doing any of this for.
And I can't seem to find a way out of the maze those thoughts put me in.
I think that perhaps I should die after all.



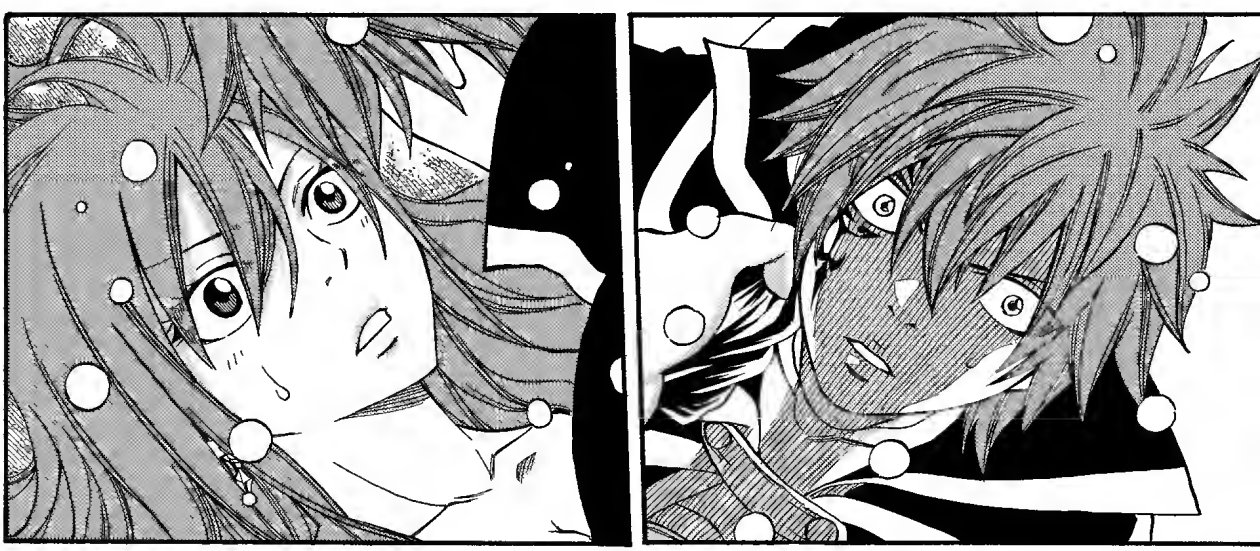

What is this cowardly tripe?!

You're wrong !!!

So if you aren't *strong*, you can't *live?* Is that it?
I'm not as strong as you! I am...

THAT is strength !!!!
The fight to live on...

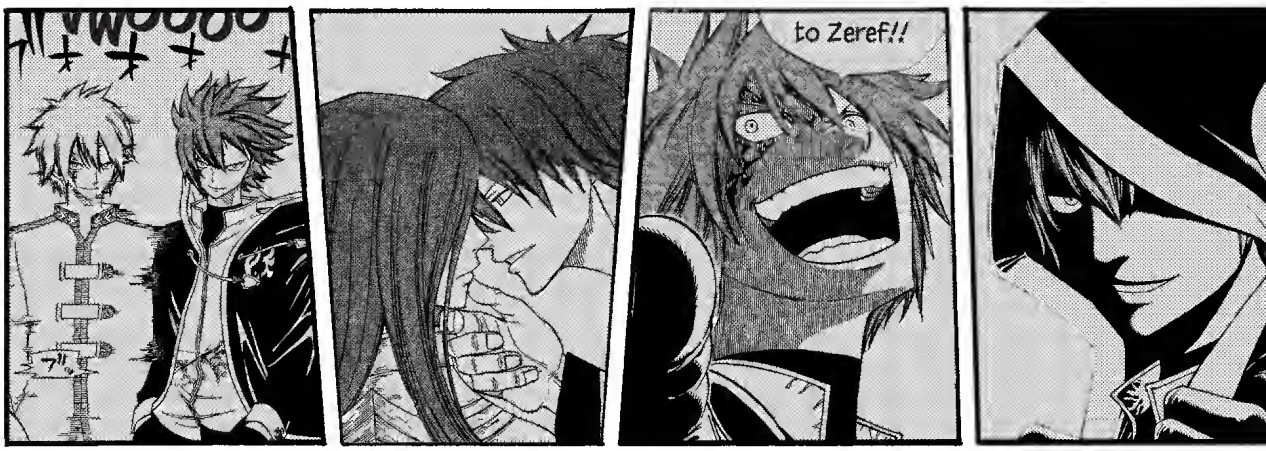
You may be right.
That Jellal was always doing his utmost to live!!!!
You aren't the Jellal I used to know !!!!
!
Erza!
TUMBLE
TRIP
GRIMP
Damn it!!!
Wah!
Aa!
ROLL
PFOOO
WHUMPH!!!

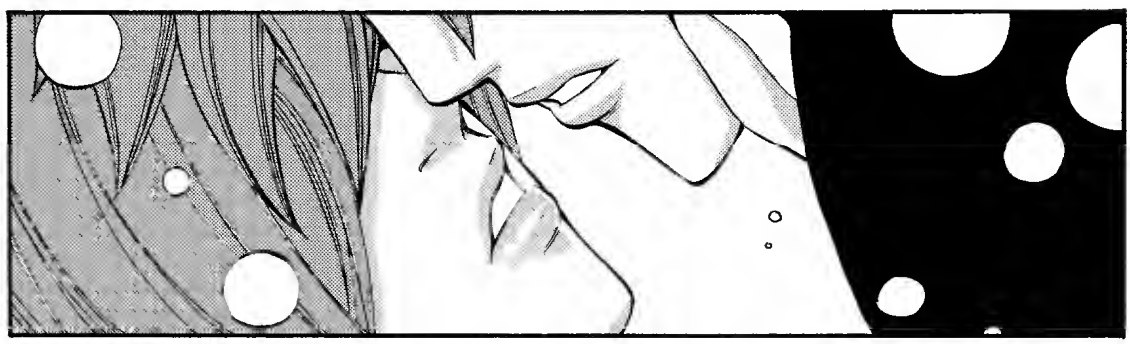


I know I'm clumsy, but I live as strong as I can.
That's all.
That isn't true...
What you say is always right.

I thought... I'd never see you again...
Erza...
Jellal...

あああ
WAAAAAA!!!!!
GUMPH
Huh?
Ooh!
SLF


to Zeref!!



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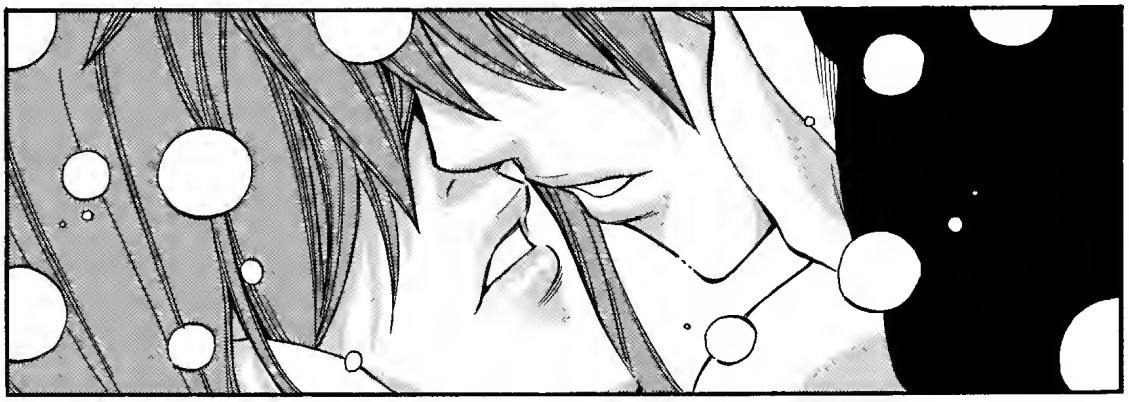
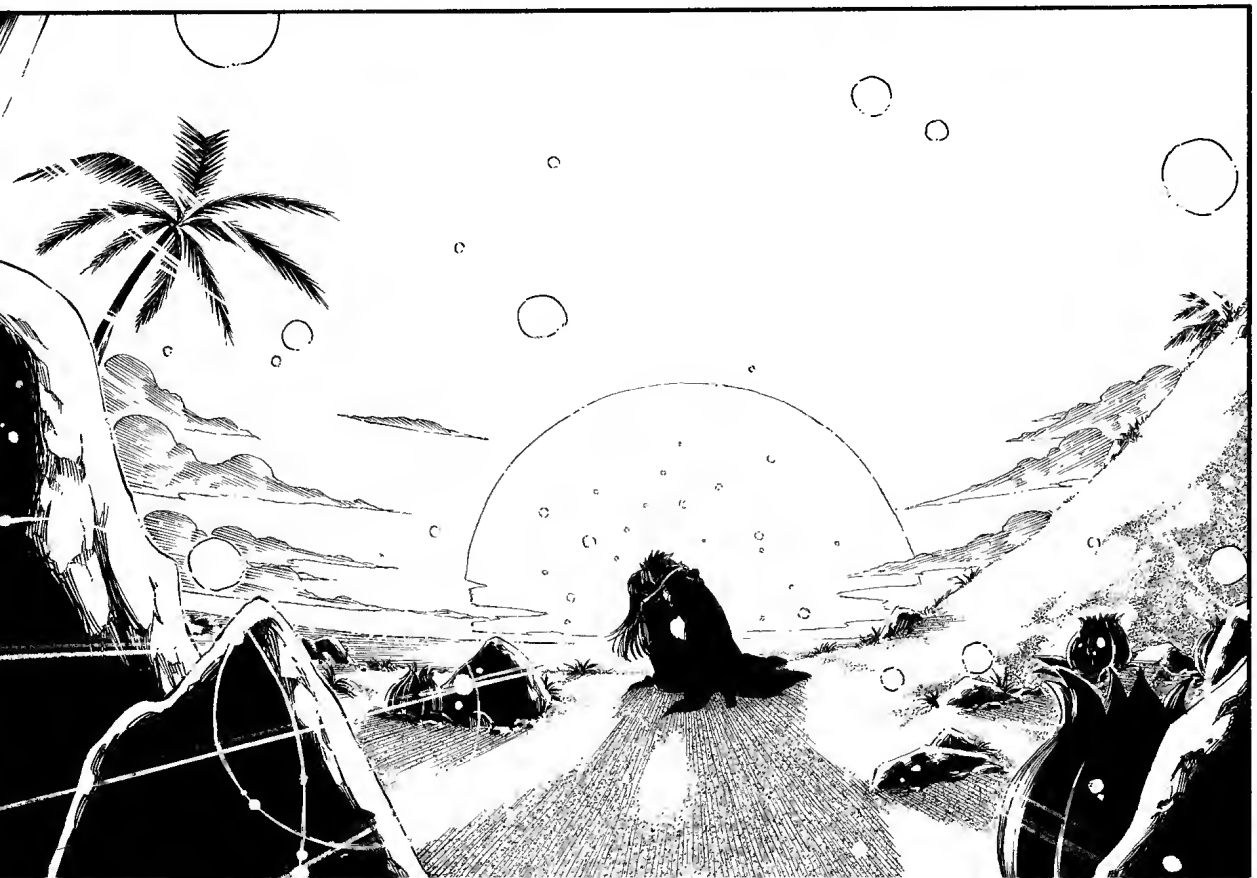
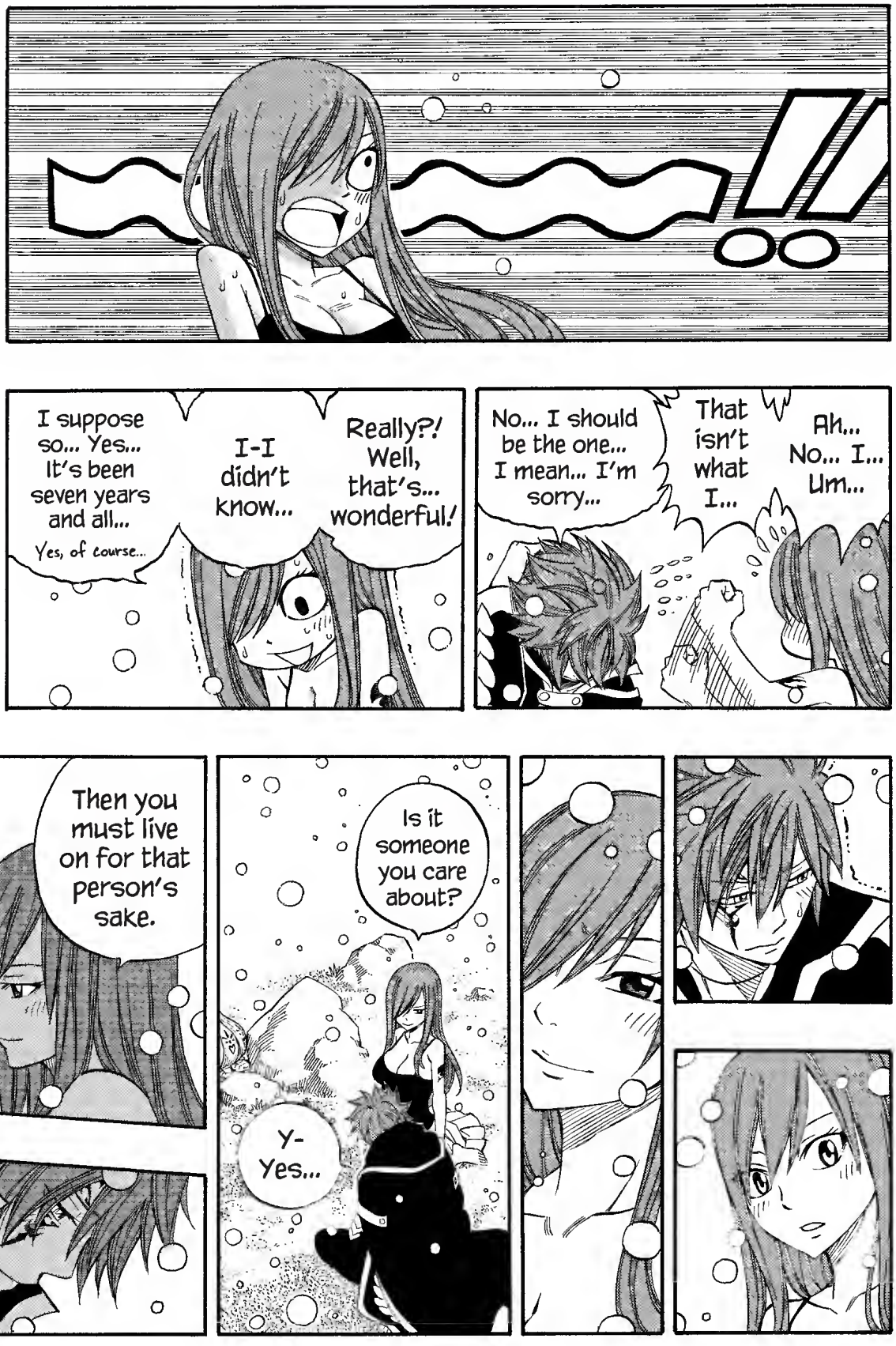
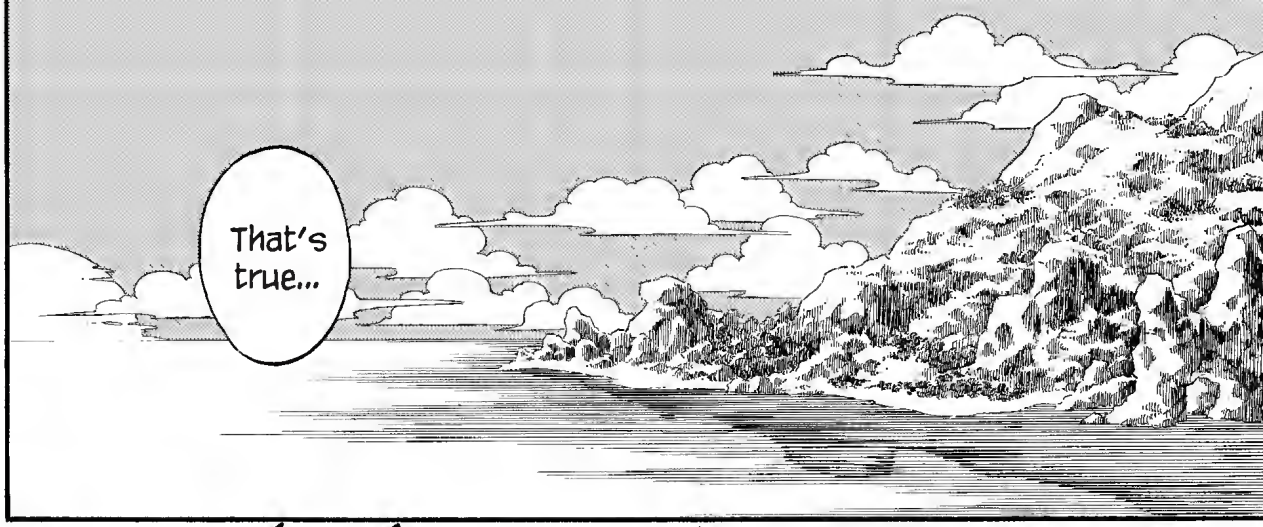




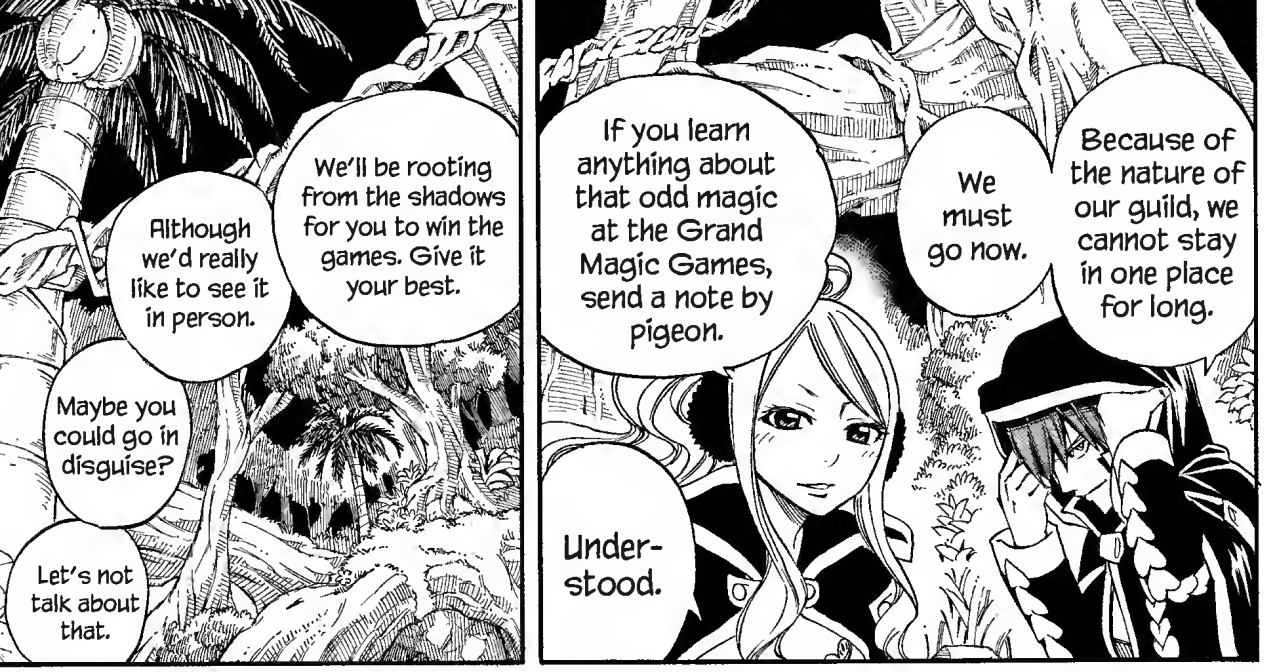
!
WHOOSH
I can't...
I am engaged to be married.

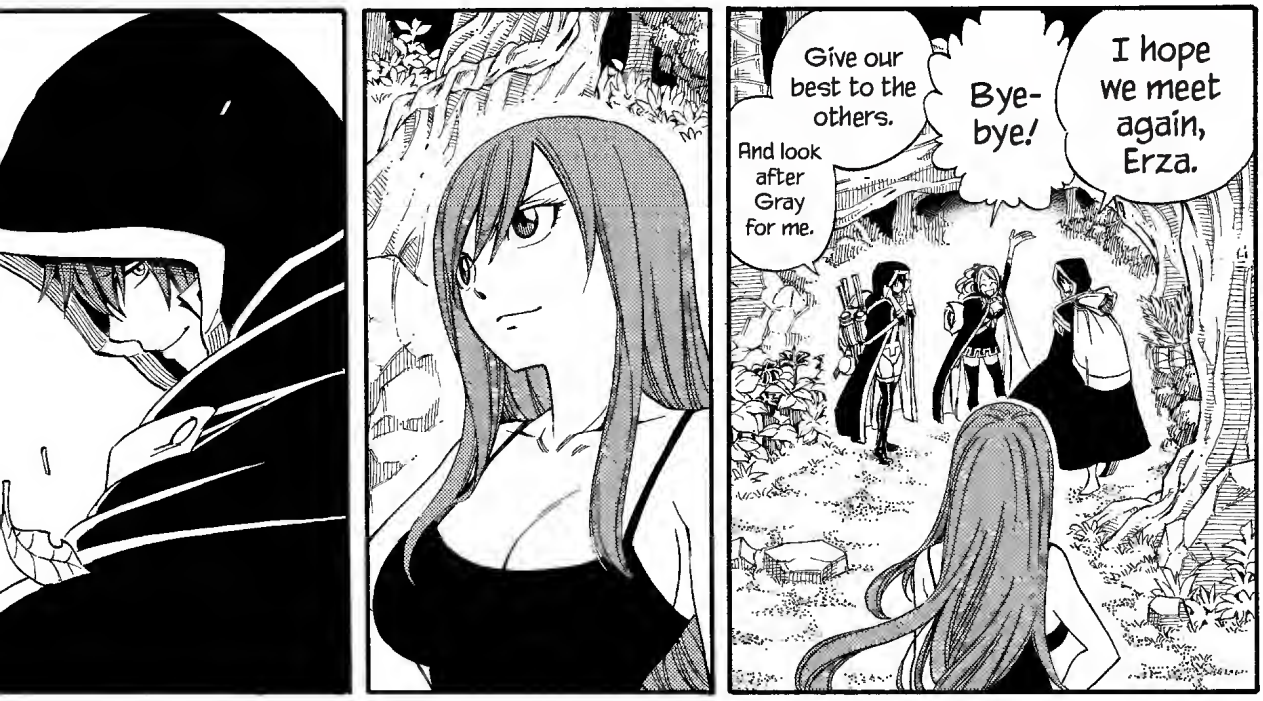

I suppose so... Yes... It's been seven years and all...
Yes, of course...
I-I didn't know...
Really?! Well, that's... wonderful!
No... I should be the one... I mean... I'm sorry...
That isn't what I...
Ah... No... I... Um...
Then you must live on for that person's sake.
Is it someone you care about?
Y-Yes...

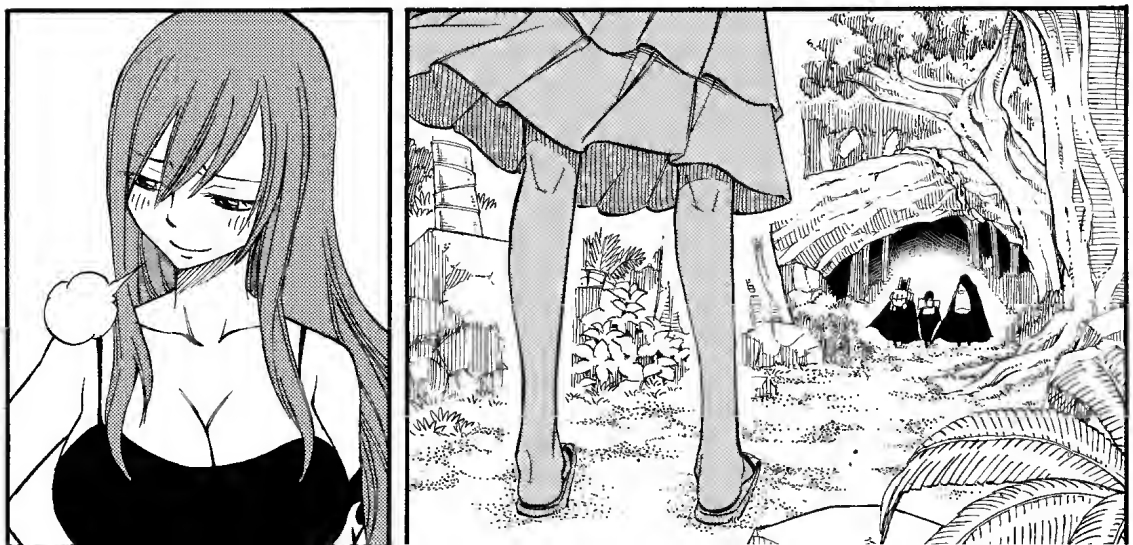

That's true...

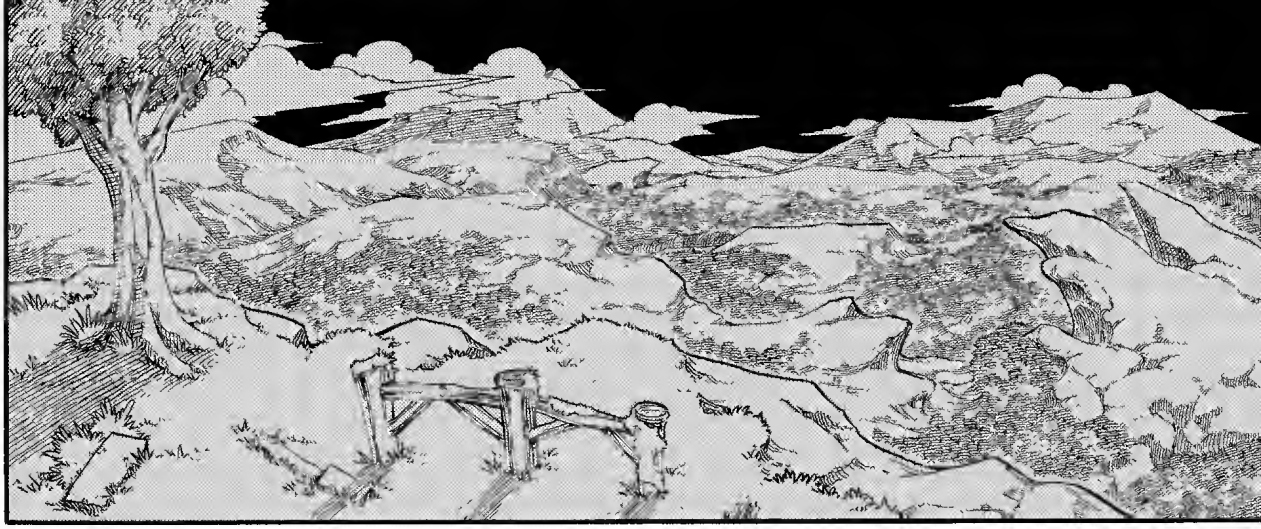
あああああああああああ
AAAAAAAAAAA

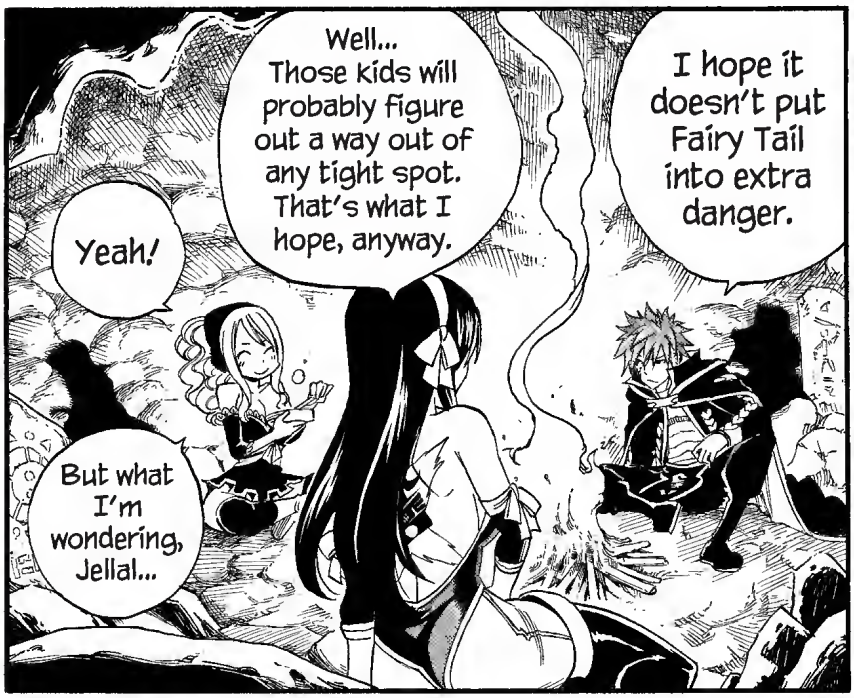
Why are *you* doing just fine?
They will not be able to move anytime soon, thanks to you.
Uhhh...
Aaaa...
Ohh...
Oh...
GYAAAAHH!!
AAAAN!!


Because of the nature of our guild, we cannot stay in one place for long.
We must go now.
If you learn anything about that odd magic at the Grand Magic Games, send a note by pigeon.
Under-stood.
We'll be rooting from the shadows for you to win the games. Give it your best.
Although we'd really like to see it in person.
Maybe you could go in disguise?
Let's not talk about that.


I hope we meet again, Erza.
Bye-bye!
Give our best to the others.
And look after Gray for me.





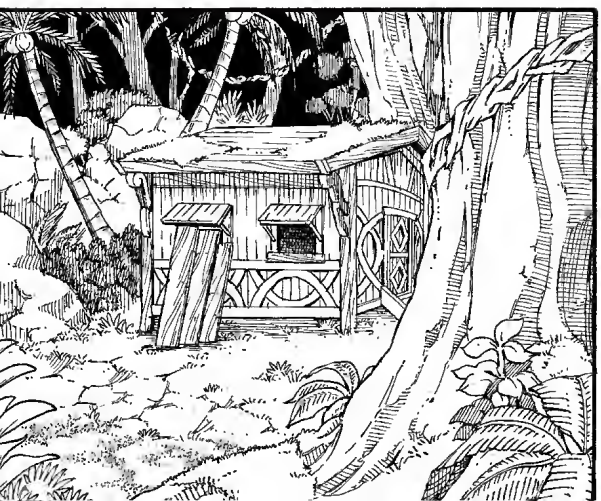

Well... Those kids will probably figure out a way out of any tight spot. That's what I hope, anyway.
I hope it doesn't put Fairy Tail into extra danger.
Yeah!
But what I'm wondering, Jellal...

The "odd magic"...

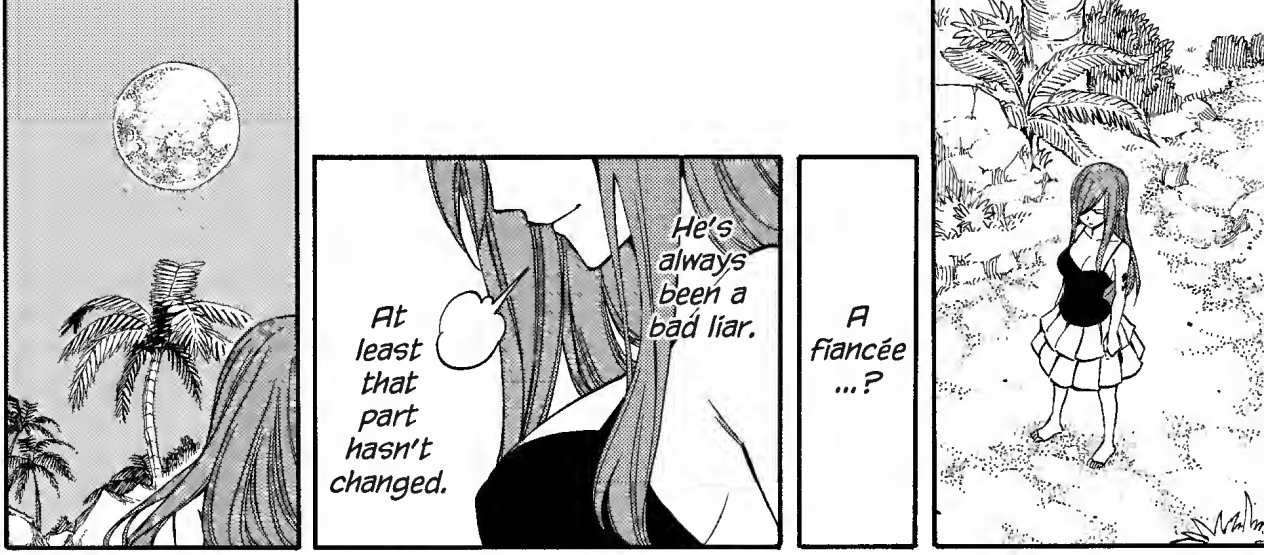
About that engagement of yours... Why'd you lie?
MUNCH MUNCH
Y-You heard that?!!

Or are you punishing yourself?
You can afford to be a little nicer to yourself.
...

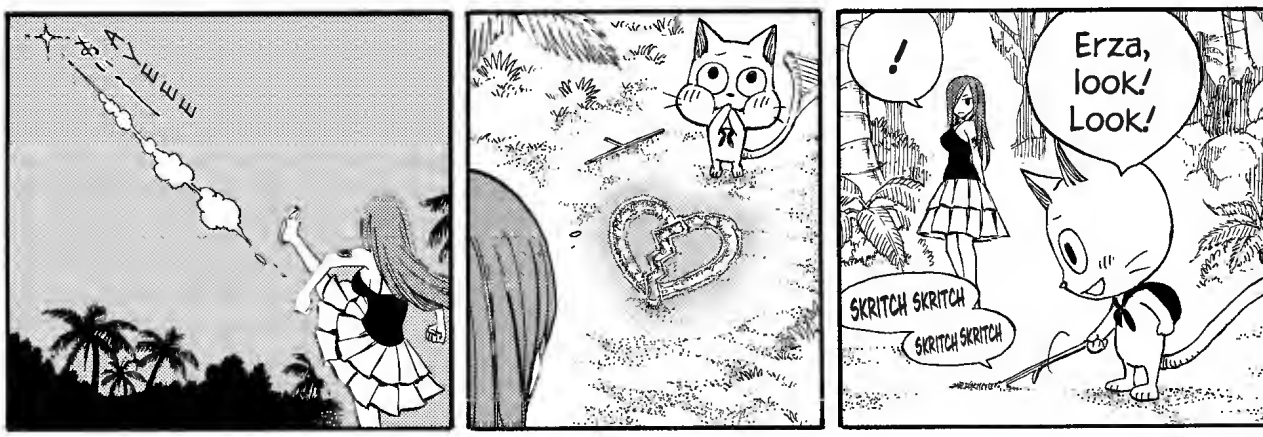
"Punishment" is the rule for Crime Sorcière.
We all decided that.
It's forbidden for us to fall in love with those who travel the path of light.
All I wish for is Erza's happiness.



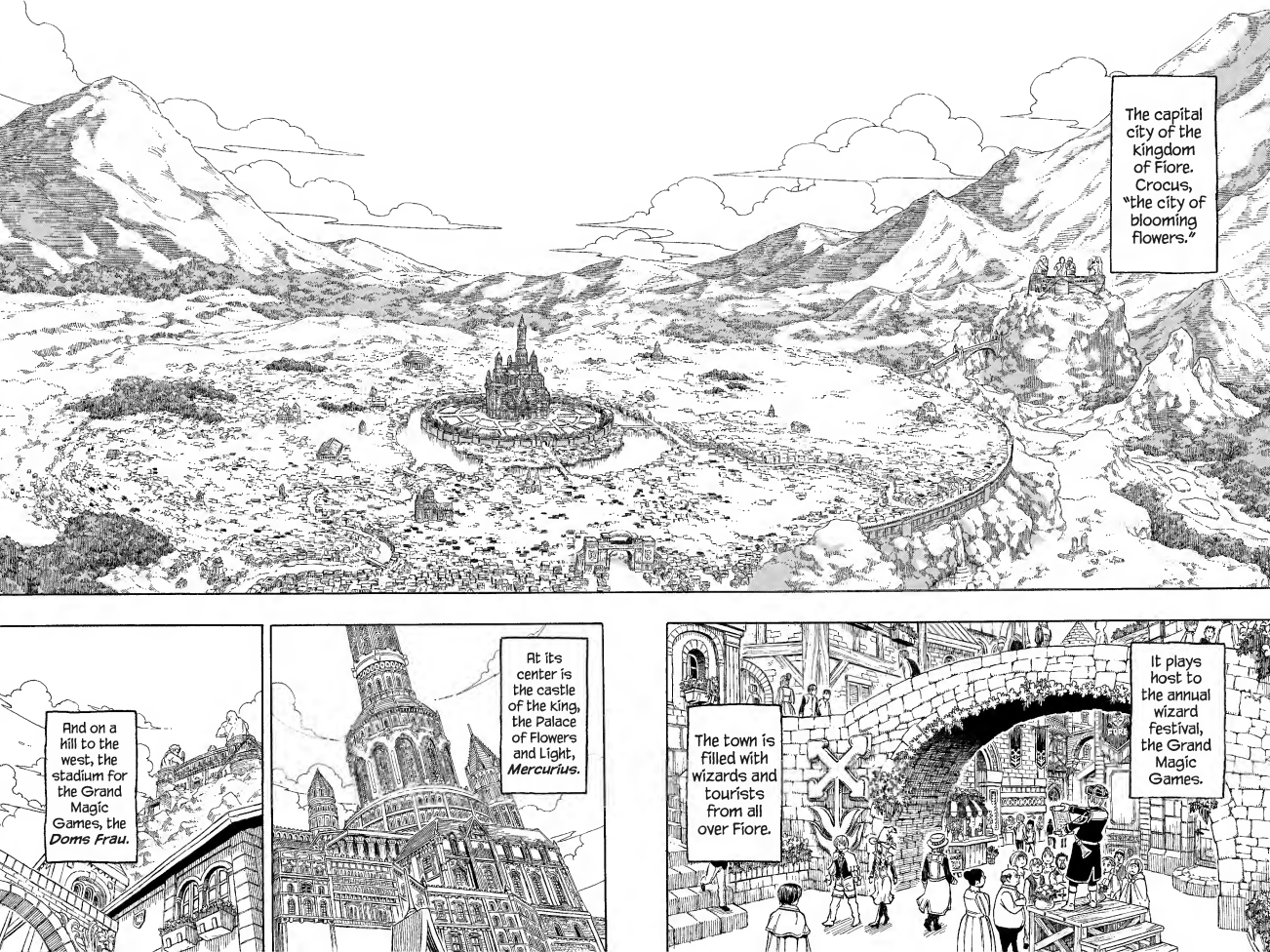
What a loser! Why's he trying to make himself look cool like that?
...Even so, couldn't he come up with a more *convincing* lie?


He's always been a bad liar.
At least that part hasn't changed.
A fiancée ...?

This is our answer.
It's better this way.


AYUUUU
SKRITCH SKRITCH
SKRITCH SKRITCH
!
Erza, look! Look!

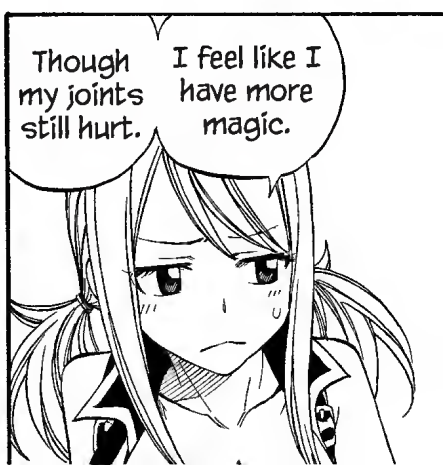
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
FAIRY TAIL
CHAPTER 265: CROCUS, THE CAPITAL OF BLOOMING FLOWERS
HIRO MASHIMA


The capital city of the kingdom of Fiore. Crocus, "the city of blooming flowers."
And on a hill to the west, the stadium for the Grand Magic Games, the *Domus Flau*.
At its center is the castle of the king, the Palace of Flowers and Light, *Mercurius*.
The town is filled with wizards and tourists from all over Fiore.
It plays host to the annual wizard festival, the Grand Magic Games.

SLUMP
And at the center of town... us.

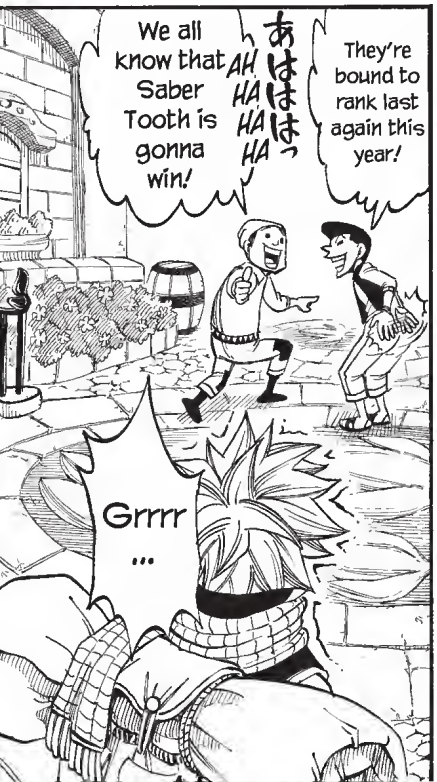
You people are pathetic!
Why don't you feel it, Erza?
I'll bet she was already using her second origin.
I'll buy that.

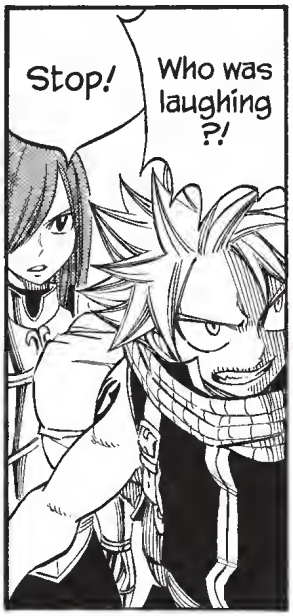
H-Hey... I still feel terrible...
Are we sure that magic was all right ...?


I feel like I have more magic.
Though my joints still hurt.

So you're all finally here!
Master!
Aye!
It's my first experience also.
It's even bigger than the Edolas capital!
Come to think of it, this is the first time I've ever been in a city this big!

Ah ha ha ha! Now we show the world the power of Fairy Tail!
We've done all the registration work.

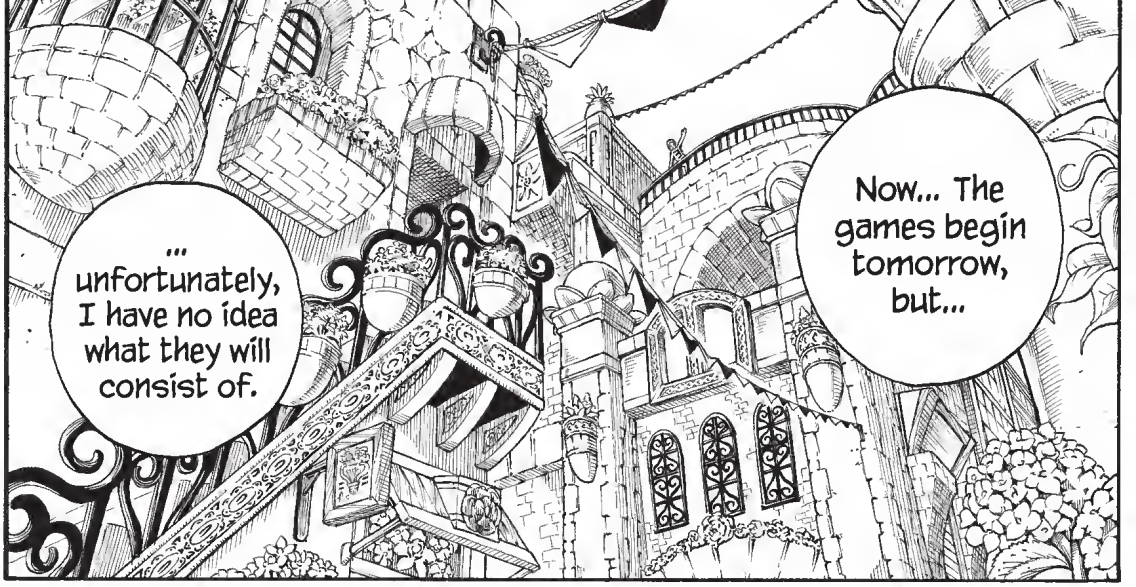

We all know that Saber Tooth is gonna win!
あはははっ AH HA HA HA
They're bound to rank last again this year!
Grrrr ...

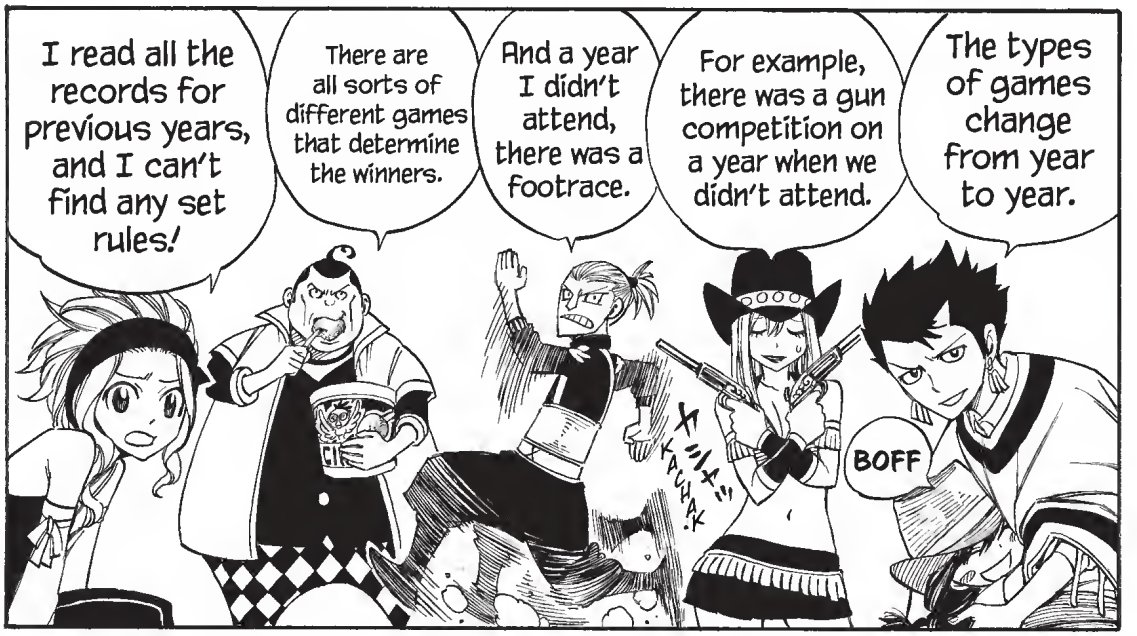

Stop!
Who was laughing ?!

The worst guild! Always losing!
BA HA HA!
Those guys?
Hey! That guy just said, "Fairy Tail!"
!

He looked at us and laughed!
HEH HEH HEH!
If you say so, I will.
Dam-mit!
What does "rank last" mean?
Anybody who wants to laugh, let 'em laugh!
If we can't grab it, then I won't be able to look the first master, who saved my life, in the eye!!!!
The top rank in Fiore is within our grasp!
AHEM
Listen! Those thirty million jew—
In the Grand Magic Games, each guild forms a team of five wizards, and all the teams compete.

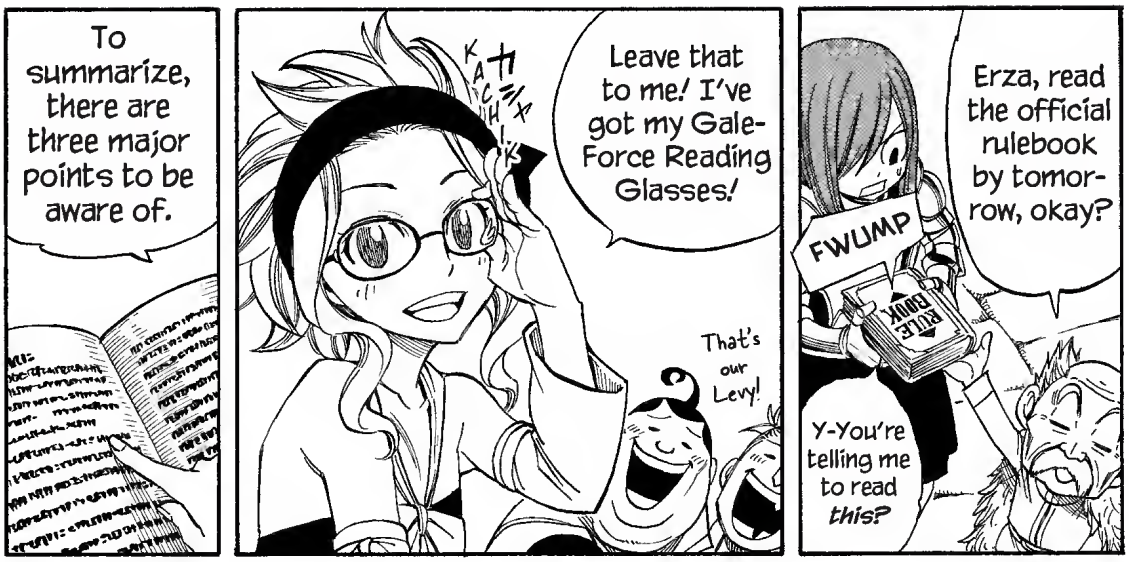
Once we got back from our training camp, Master chose us five for the competition.
Natsu.
Erza.
Gray.
I was pretty much expecting that much.
They're not back yet.
But Wendy and I were chosen too.
I just can't! Laxus or Gajeel can do it, can't they?
Huhhh?
The master chooses not based on individual strength, but on team cohesion! Now that you are chosen, we expect your best!
Yeah, that's true.
I'll try really hard!
If we really want it, I'd have preferred Gildarts, Laxus, and Mirajane, but...
You're saying that out loud!!!!

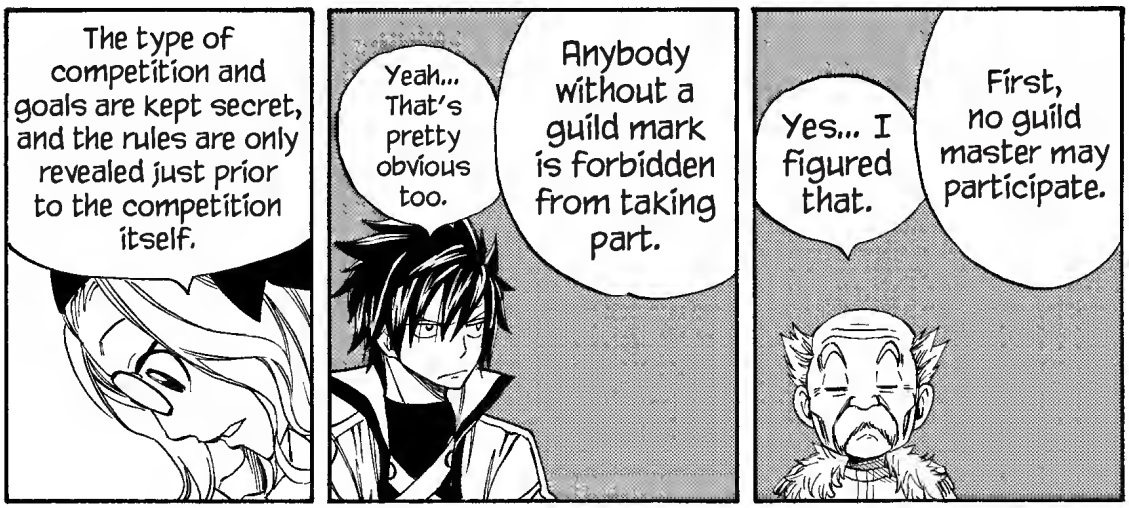

Now... The games begin tomorrow, but...
... unfortunately, I have no idea what they will consist of.

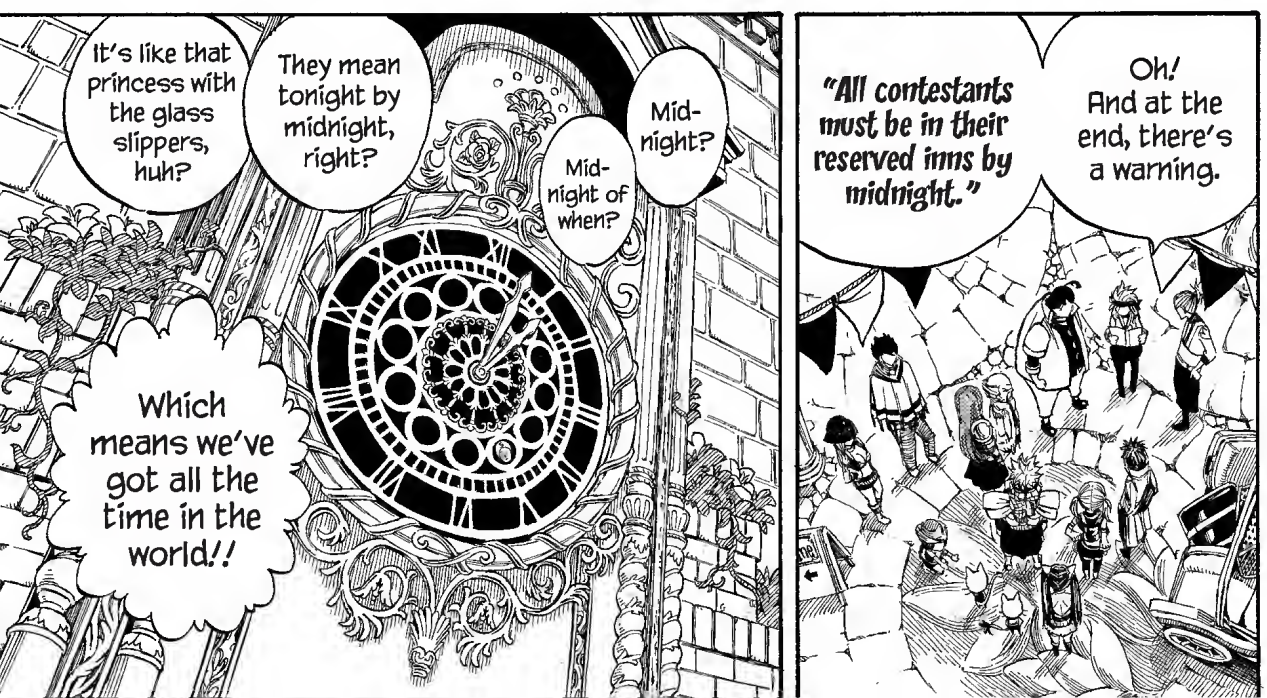

I read all the records for previous years, and I can't find any set rules!
There are all sorts of different games that determine the winners.
And a year I didn't attend, there was a footrace.
For example, there was a gun competition on a year when we didn't attend.
The types of games change from year to year.
KACHAK
BOFF

Mysterious magic, and the games are a mystery, too...?
Every year during the festival, we sense a very odd style of magic.

So? That just means we find out when we get there!
I hope it's a battle!!

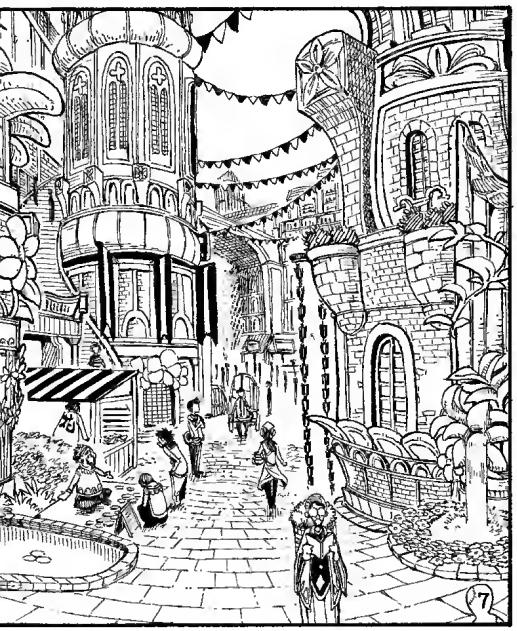

To summarize, there are three major points to be aware of.
KACHI!
Leave that to me! I've got my Gale-Force Reading Glasses!
That's our Levy!
Erza, read the official rulebook by tomorrow, okay?
FWUMP
RULE BOOK
Y-You're telling me to read this?


The type of competition and goals are kept secret, and the rules are only revealed just prior to the competition itself.
Yeah... That's pretty obvious too.
Anybody without a guild mark is forbidden from taking part.
Yes... I figured that.
First, no guild master may participate.


It's like that princess with the glass slippers, huh?
They mean tonight by midnight, right?
Mid-night of when?
Mid-night?
Which means we've got all the time in the world!!
"All contestants must be in their reserved inns by midnight."
Oh! And at the end, there's a warning.

Now that we're here in this huge town, let's check it out!!
Aye, Sir!!
Hey!! You know where our inn is, right?
Honey Bone, right?
Make sure you are back by midnight!! Got it?!
Aye!
Mid-night ...
Re-served inns...
The Honey Bone Inn
HONEY BONE
So this is our room?
SHIK
SHIK
SHIK

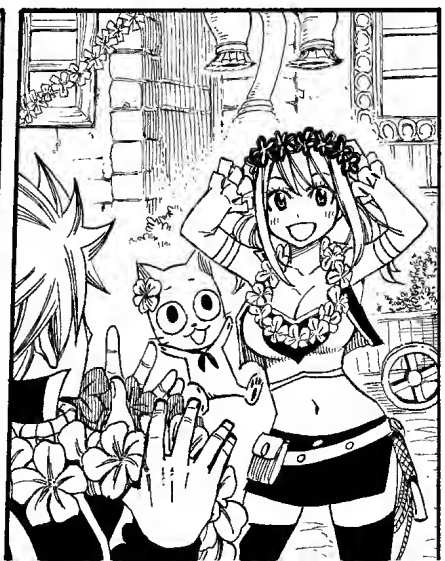
Hmm ...
SHIK
さっ
SHIK
SHIK
さささっ
SHIK
SQUEEK
キュッ
キュッ
SQUEEK
SHIK
さっ
SHIK
SHIK
さささっ
SHIK

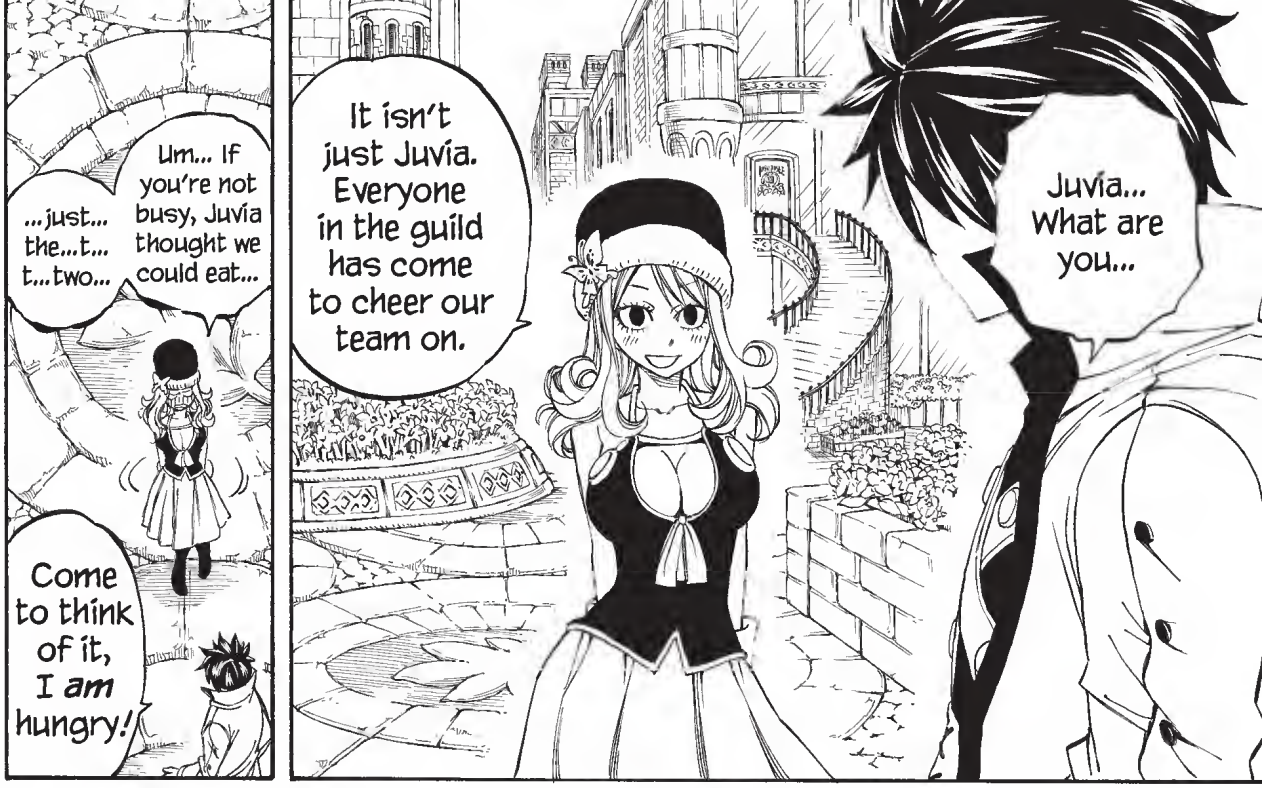


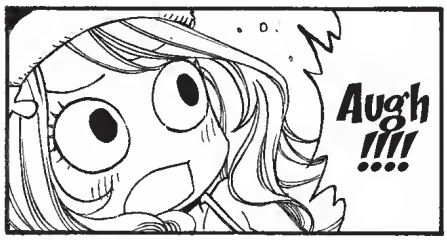
It doesn't *seem* suspicious.

Gray-sama! ♡

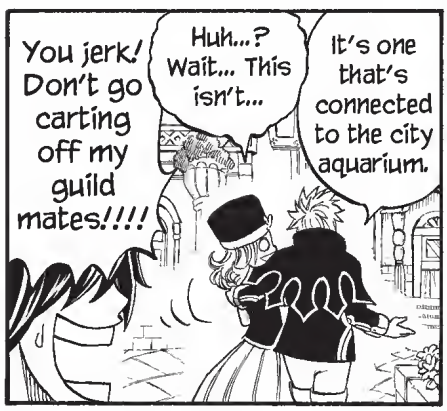
CASTLE




Juvia... What are you...
It isn't just Juvia. Everyone in the guild has come to cheer our team on.
Um... If you're not busy, Juvia thought we could eat...
...just... the...t... t...two...
Come to think of it, I am hungry!


Augh !!!!

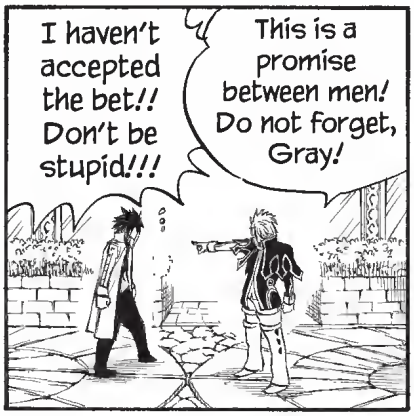
Lyon !!!!
Then we'll go to a restaurant I know in town.
No
VWIMM

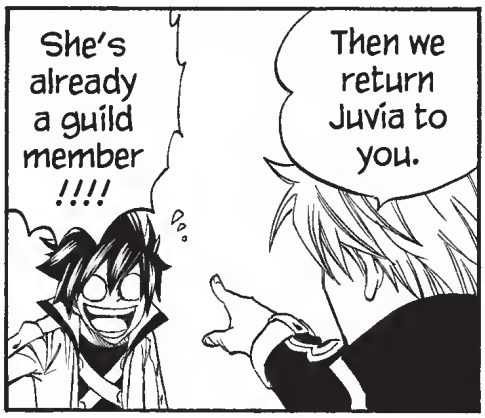

You jerk! Don't go carting off my guild mates!!!!
Huh...? Wait... This isn't...
It's one that's connected to the city aquarium.

Don't you forget, we've got a monster talent named Erza!
Up until now, neither Jura nor I had attended, and still we placed second.
I think you get what I'm saying.

Yeah, so?
I hear you're entering the Grand Magic Games, Gray?
Of course... it will be us at Lamia Scale who will be the winners.

Let us make a wager!
The moment Lamia Scale wins the tournament, Juvia becomes a member of *our* guild!
AAAAAA あ あ あ あ あ
What's that supposed to mean?


This is a promise between men! Do not forget, Gray!
I haven't accepted the bet!! Don't be stupid!!!


Then we return Juvia to you.
She's already a guild member !!!!

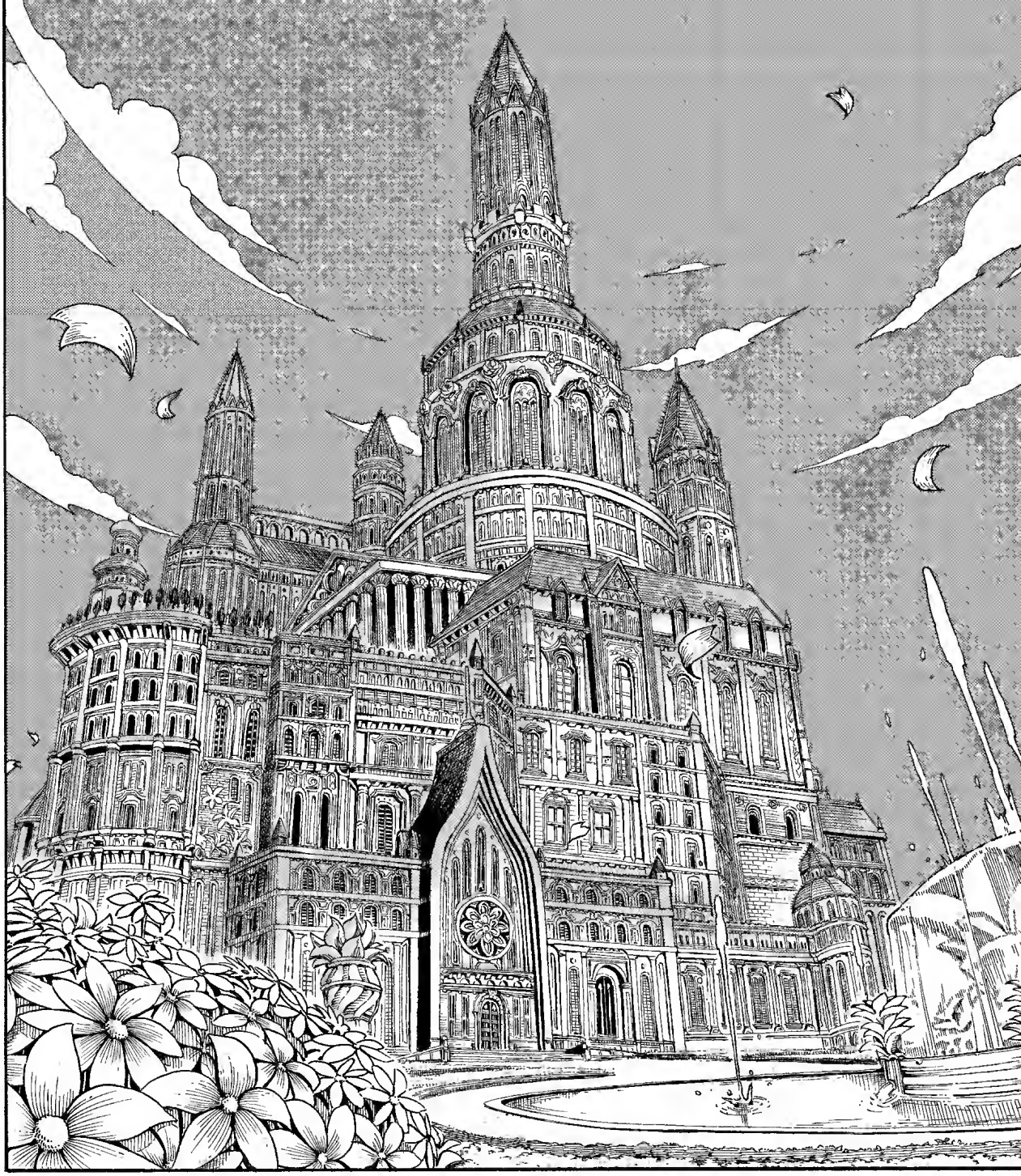
A-And if *we* win?

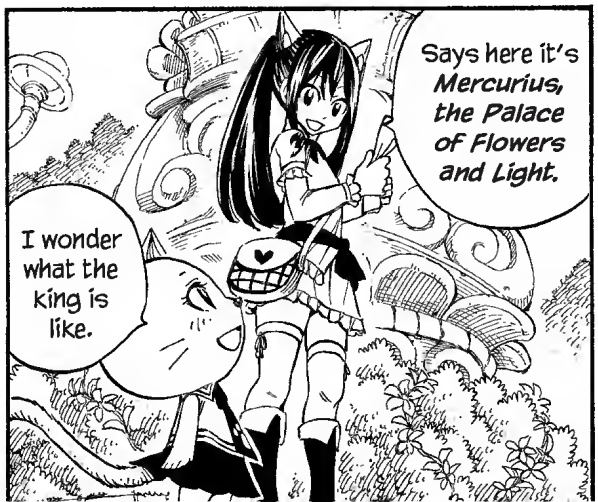
Gray-sama!! Do you choose Juvia, or do you choose Lyon?! Make up your mind, please!!!!
You haven't followed this conversation at all, have you?

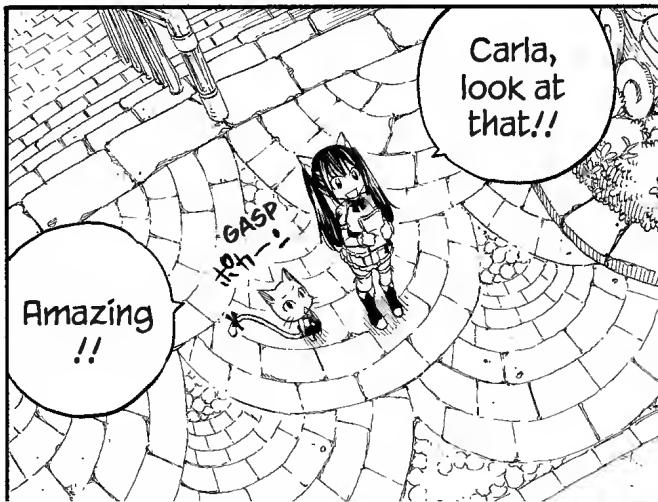
AHH... AAAHH ...
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL

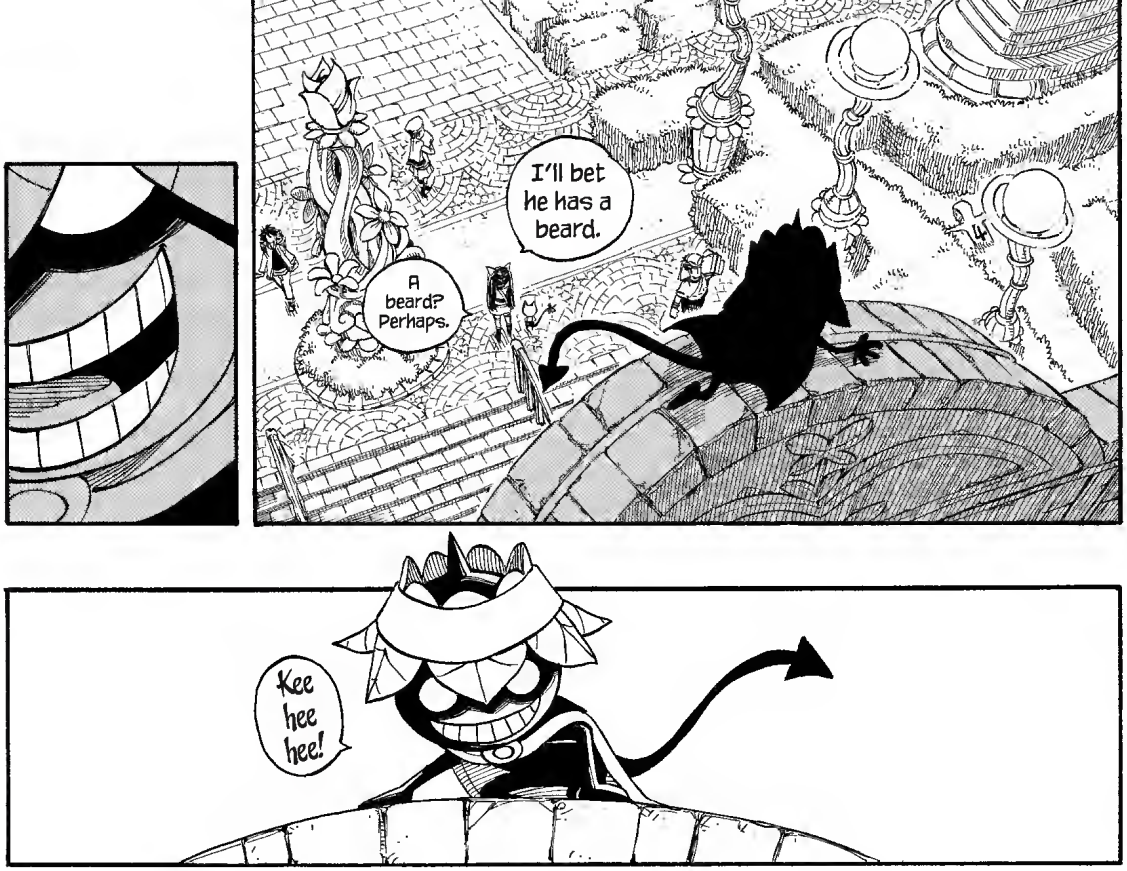
Are you afraid you'll *lose?*

What did you say...?

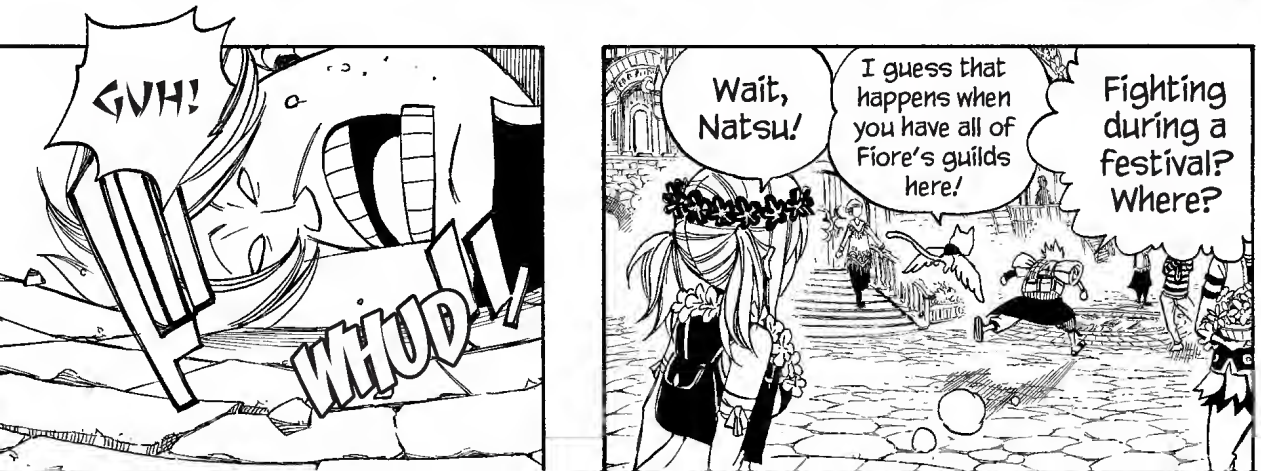



Says here it's *Mercurius, the Palace of Flowers and Light.*
I wonder what the king is like.


Carla, look at that!!
GASP!
Amazing !!


I'll bet he has a beard.
A beard? Perhaps.
Kee hee hee!

It's a fight!
Ohh!
I hear people all the time calling it the Flower Capital.
There are flowers wherever you look in town, huh?

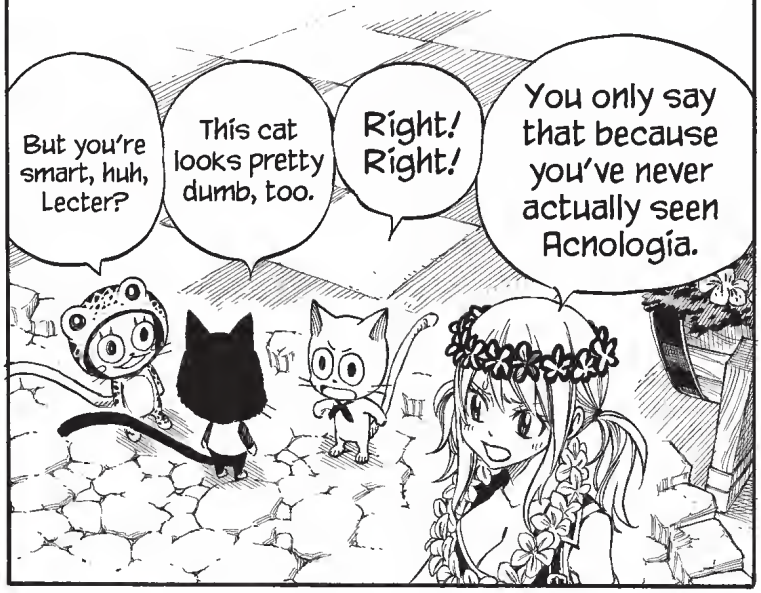

GUH!
WHUD!
Wait, Natsu!
I guess that happens when you have all of Fiore's guilds here!
Fighting during a festival? Where?

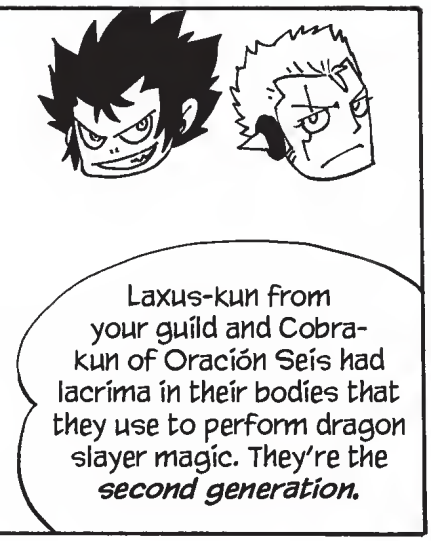
ざわざわ
CHATTER CHATTER
ざわざわ
CHATTER CHATTER
Anybody up for some more?
Not even worth talking about!
Yeah.
Fro thinks so also.

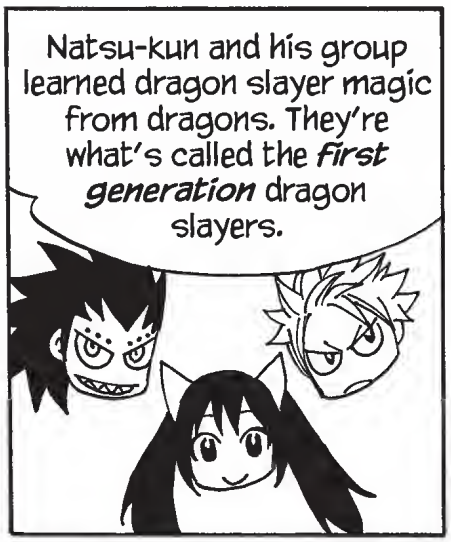
!
SHUFFLE
Saber Tooth?
The linchpin of the strongest guild!
It's Sting and Rogue !!
They're the twin dragons of Saber Tooth!
!!
Natsu Dragneel !!
You're...
So it was true?
Ha ha!! I heard a rumor you were in the Grand Magic Games.
You know about me?
?!
Cats ?!!!
They talked!!
Funny.
What's with the weird cat with the funny face?
Are you really surprised, Happy?

You're the dragon slayer who couldn't slay a dragon... Acnologia. Right?
Then why do they call you a dragon slayer, anyway?
Huh?
Dragon slayers?!! You two?
I was simply curious as a fellow dragon slayer.
By the way, he liked Gajeel.
And here I looked up to you a long time back.
How about you call us true dragon slayers?
We can take down Acnologia, you know.

The difference is in our abilities as dragon slayers.
It doesn't matter whether we've seen it or not.


But you're smart, huh, Lecter?
This cat looks pretty dumb, too.
Right! Right!
You only say that because you've never actually seen Acnologia.


Laxus-kun from your guild and Cobra-kun of Oración Seis had lacrima in their bodies that they use to perform dragon slayer magic. They're the *second generation.*


Natsu-kun and his group learned dragon slayer magic from dragons. They're what's called the *first generation* dragon slayers.

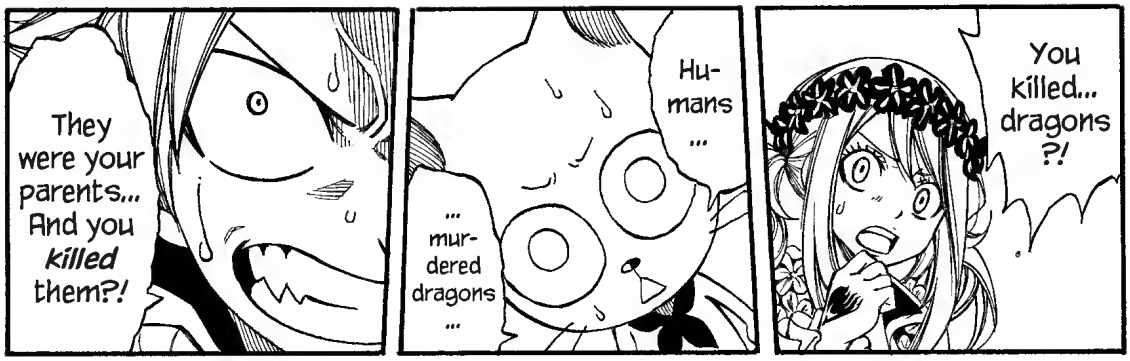
Maybe I should explain.

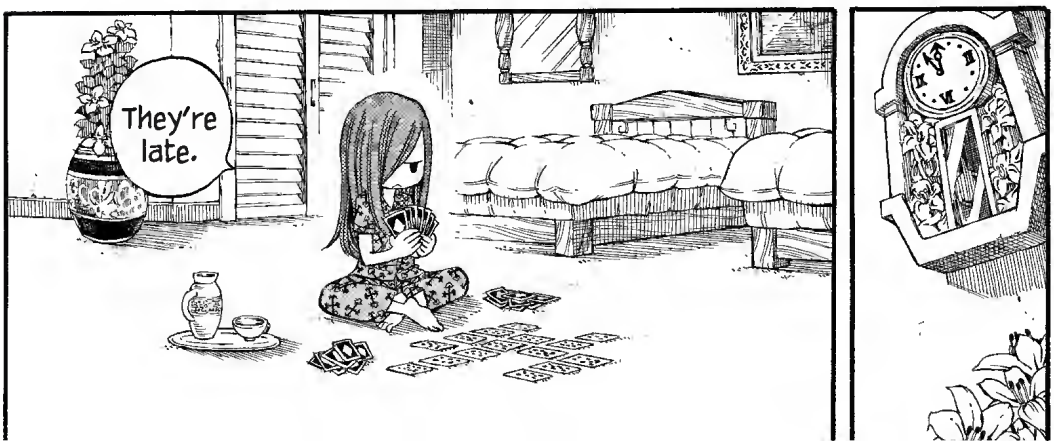
So your dragons vanished in the year 777 too?

Let's spell it out for him.
In a manner of speaking.

The strongest dragon slayers.
...are hybrids who both learned the magic from dragons and have lacrima in their bodies. The *third generation.*
But now Sting-kun and Rogue-kun...
Third generation?

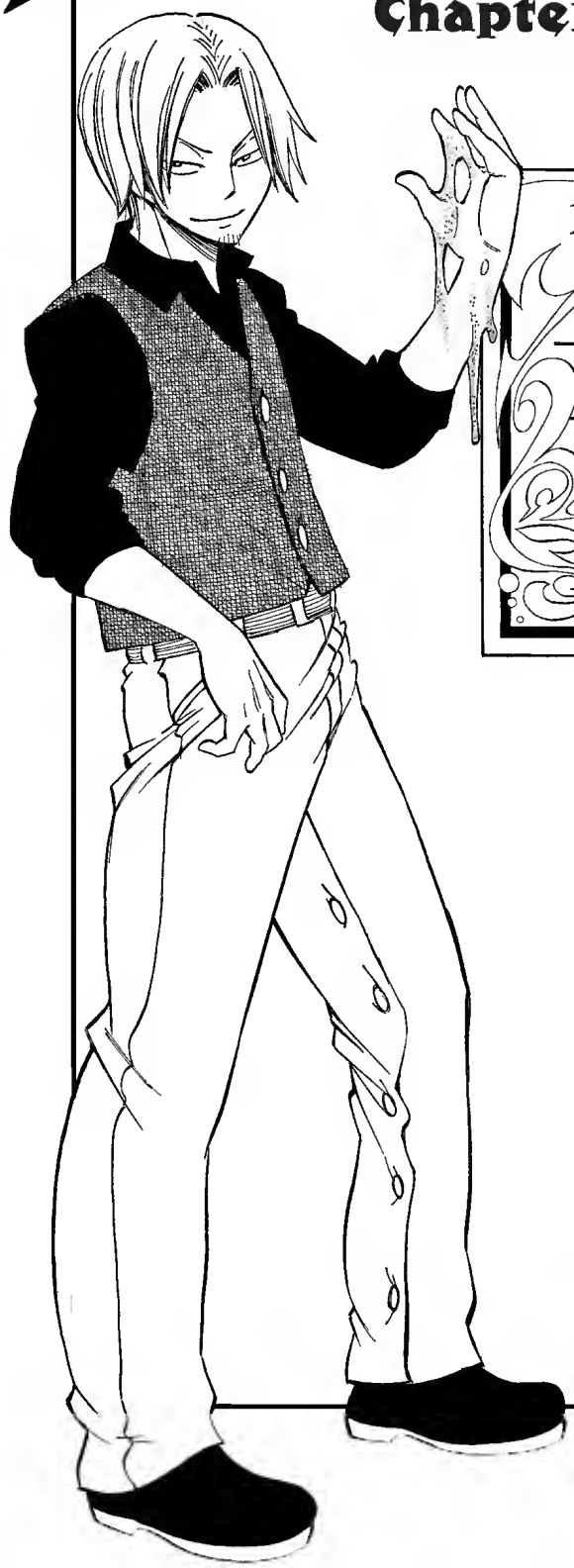
We took the dragons who taught us dragon slayer magic and finished them off with our own hands.
We did it to become true dragon slayers.


They were your parents... And you killed them?!
Humans ...
... murdered dragons ...
You killed... dragons?!


They're late.

FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 266: Sky Labyrinth



FAIRY TAIL

Name: Max Alors

Age: 24

Magic: Sandstorm

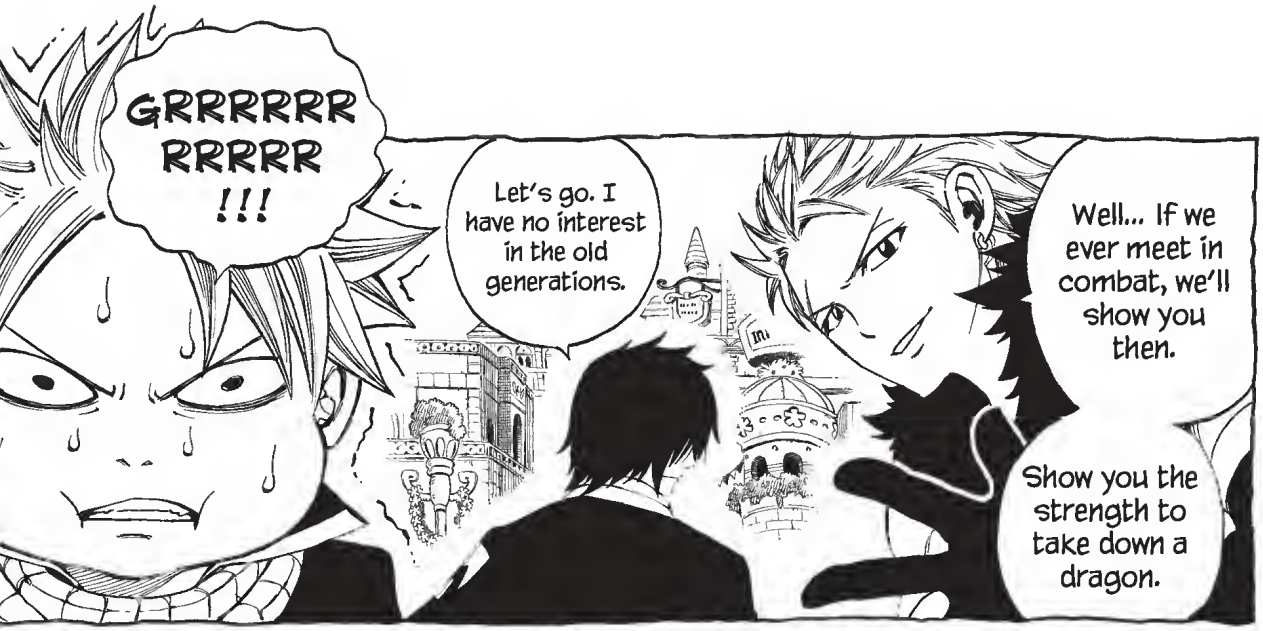
Likes: Bars

Dislikes: Being alone

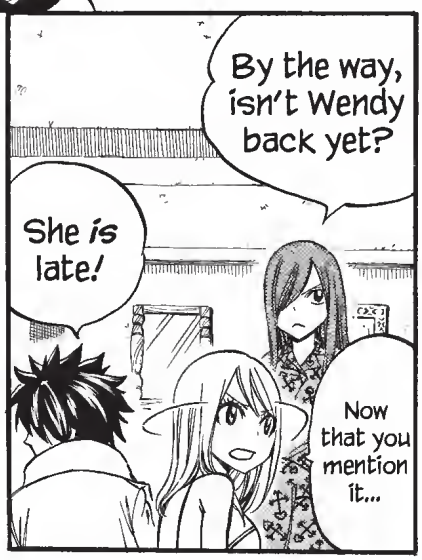
Remarks

One of his favorite things in the world is talking to people, so while the Sirius Island group was gone, the number of people in the guild decreased, and this pained him. Before, he'd work the guild's gift shop, plan and run events, talk to the public and do master-of-ceremonies work, but as the guild got weaker, his constant talk was reduced a little bit. The people around him started to think he had finally quieted down, but when the Sirius Island group came back, his motor mouth returned.

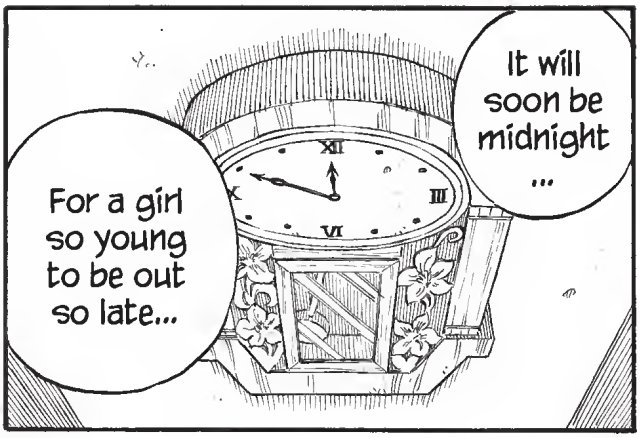
HONEYBONE
Listen, you!
Where have you been all this time?
Having dinner, and not enjoying it one bit...
We found ourselves involved with some weird people.
Or maybe *we* involved *ourselves*...

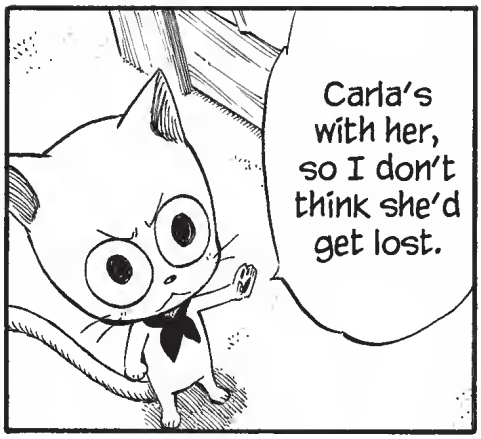

GRRRRRR RRRRR !!!
Let's go. I have no interest in the old generations.
Well... If we ever meet in combat, we'll show you then.
Show you the strength to take down a dragon.

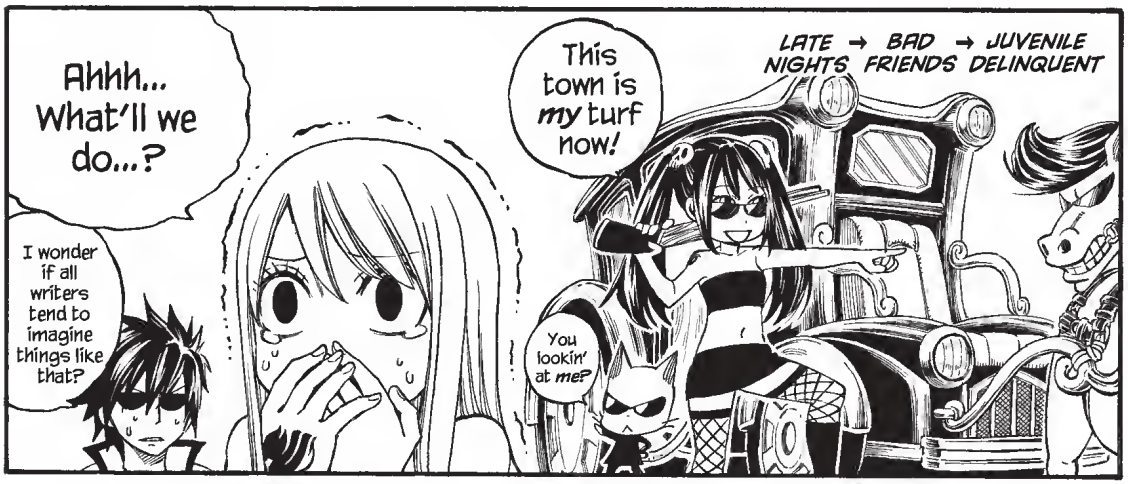
GRRRRR RRRR ...
Fro thinks so also!
Plus, the cats who follow these washed-up dragon slayers around stink like bums.


By the way, isn't Wendy back yet?
She is late!
Now that you mention it...

GRAAAH
Those guys said things that cannot be forgiven!!!!

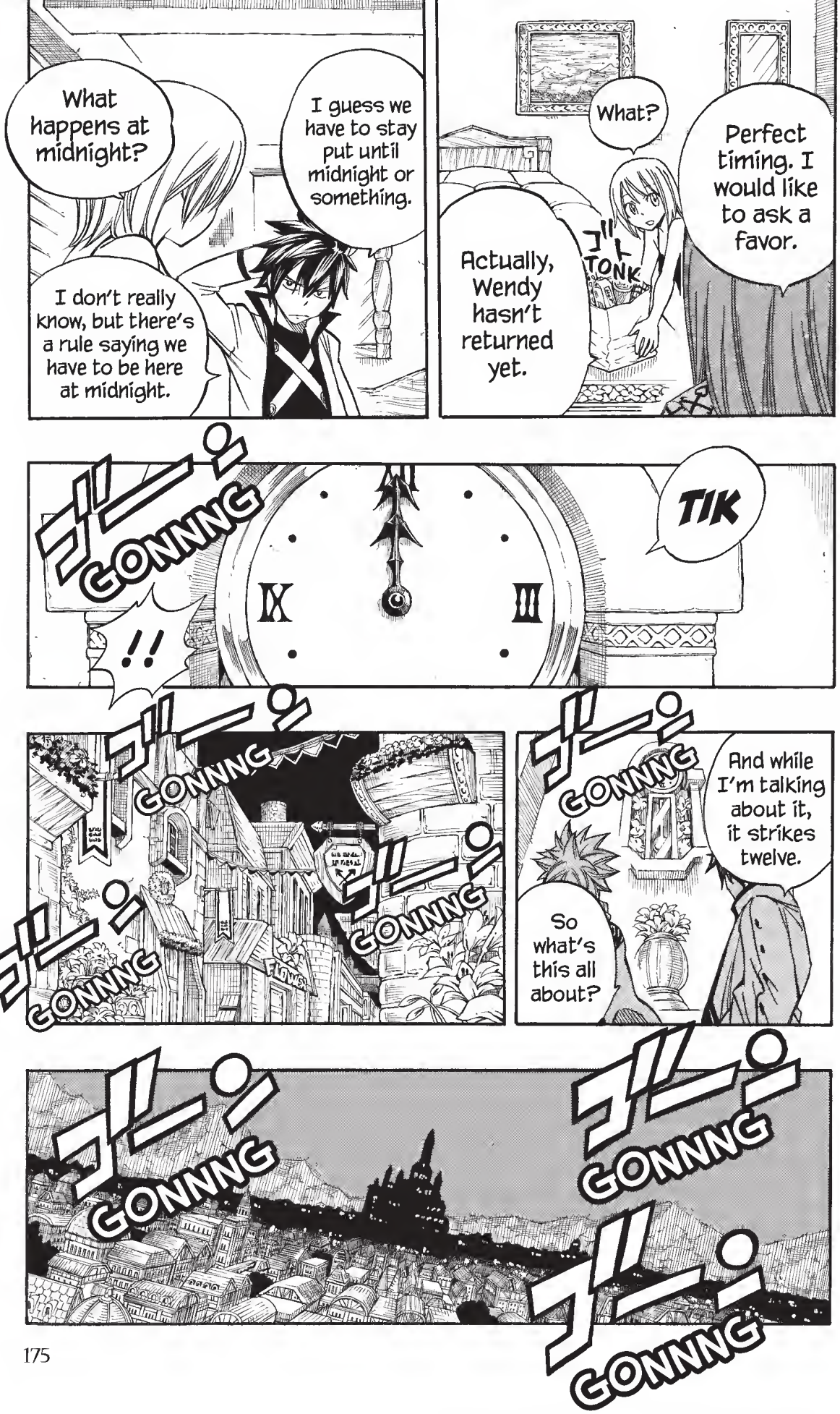

It will soon be midnight ...
For a girl so young to be out so late...

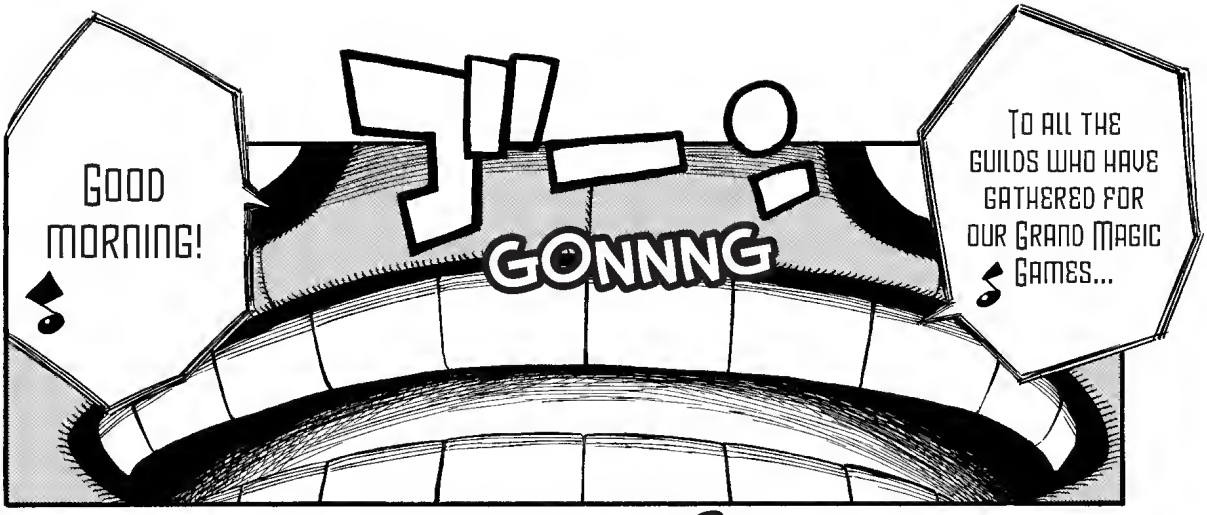

Carla's with her, so I don't think she'd get lost.

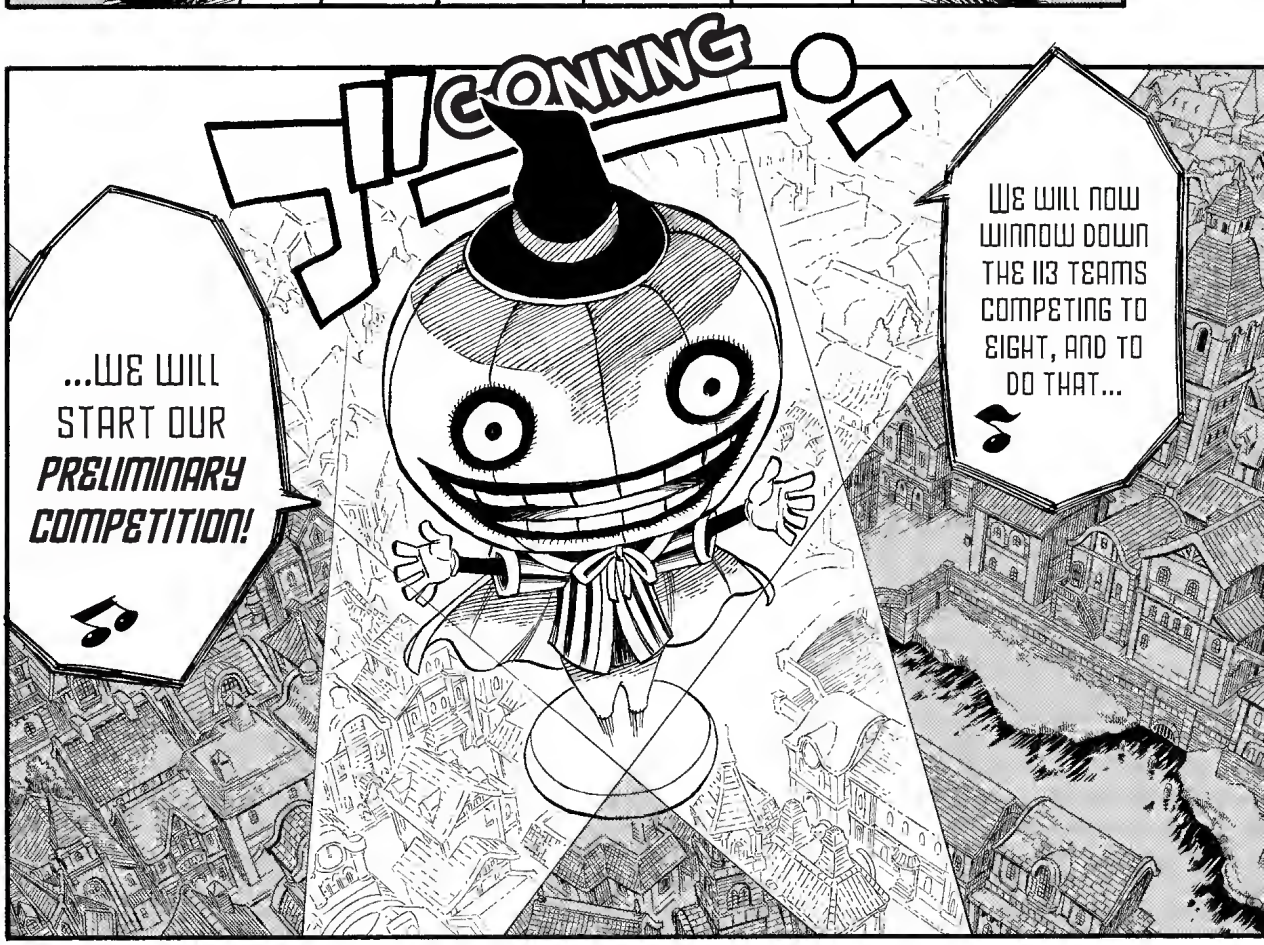

Ahhh... What'll we do...?
I wonder if all writers tend to imagine things like that?
This town is my turf now!
You lookin' at me?
LATE NIGHTS
BAD FRIENDS
JUVENILE DELINQUENT

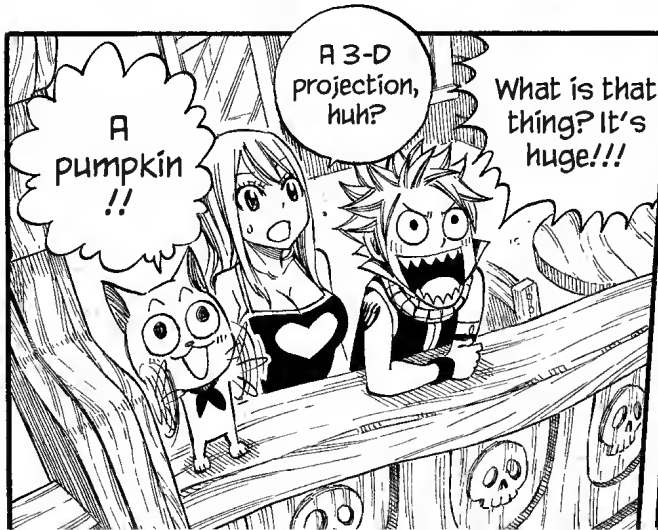
You're back from your mountain hiking?
We thought we had really built ourselves up, but we weren't picked...
Waaah! Want to compete!! I wanna show Lisanna and Mira what I can do!

Yo! We brought presents.
HI KA CHI KA
It all starts tomorrow, right?
Elfman! Lisanna!
MUSCLE COLA

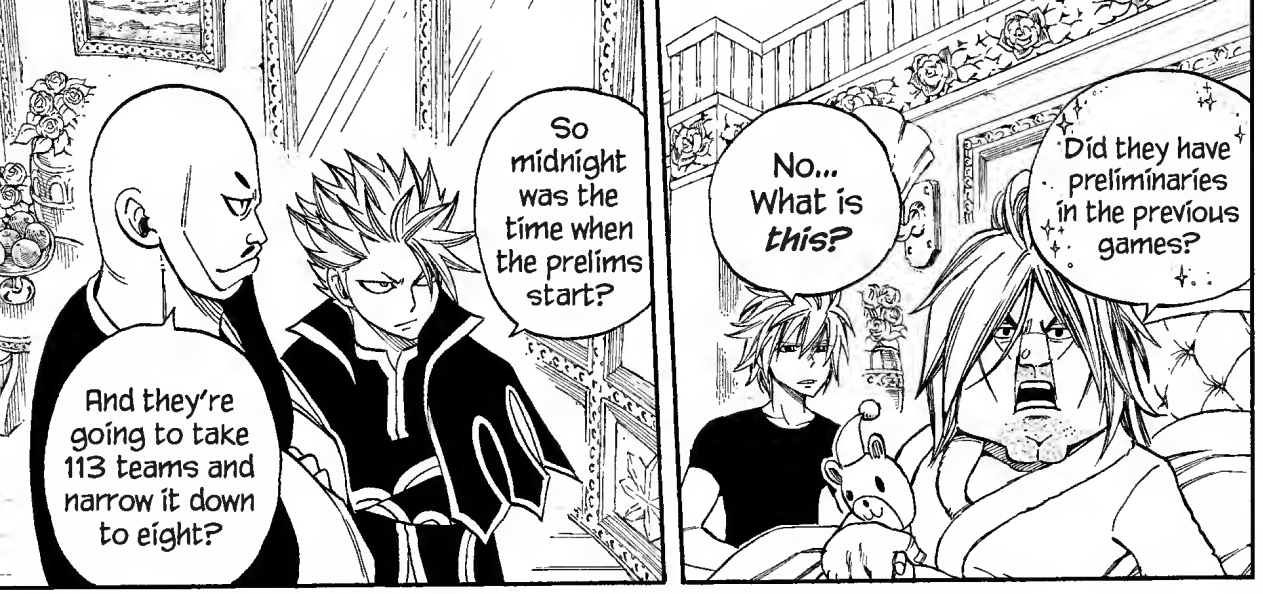

What happens at midnight?
I guess we have to stay put until midnight or something.
I don't really know, but there's a rule saying we have to be here at midnight.
What?
Perfect timing. I would like to ask a favor.
Actually, Wendy hasn't returned yet.
TONK
GONNNG
!!
TIK
GONNNG
GONNNG
GONNNG
GONNNG
FLOWERS
And while I'm talking about it, it strikes twelve.
So what's this all about?
GONNNG
GONNNG
GONNNG
GONNNG

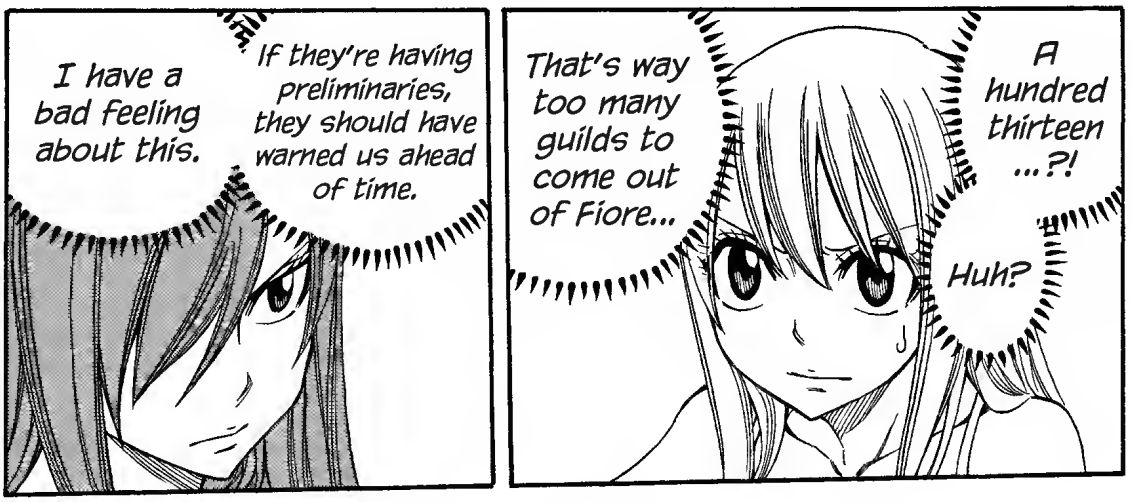

GONNNG
Good morning!
To all the guilds who have gathered for our Grand Magic Games...

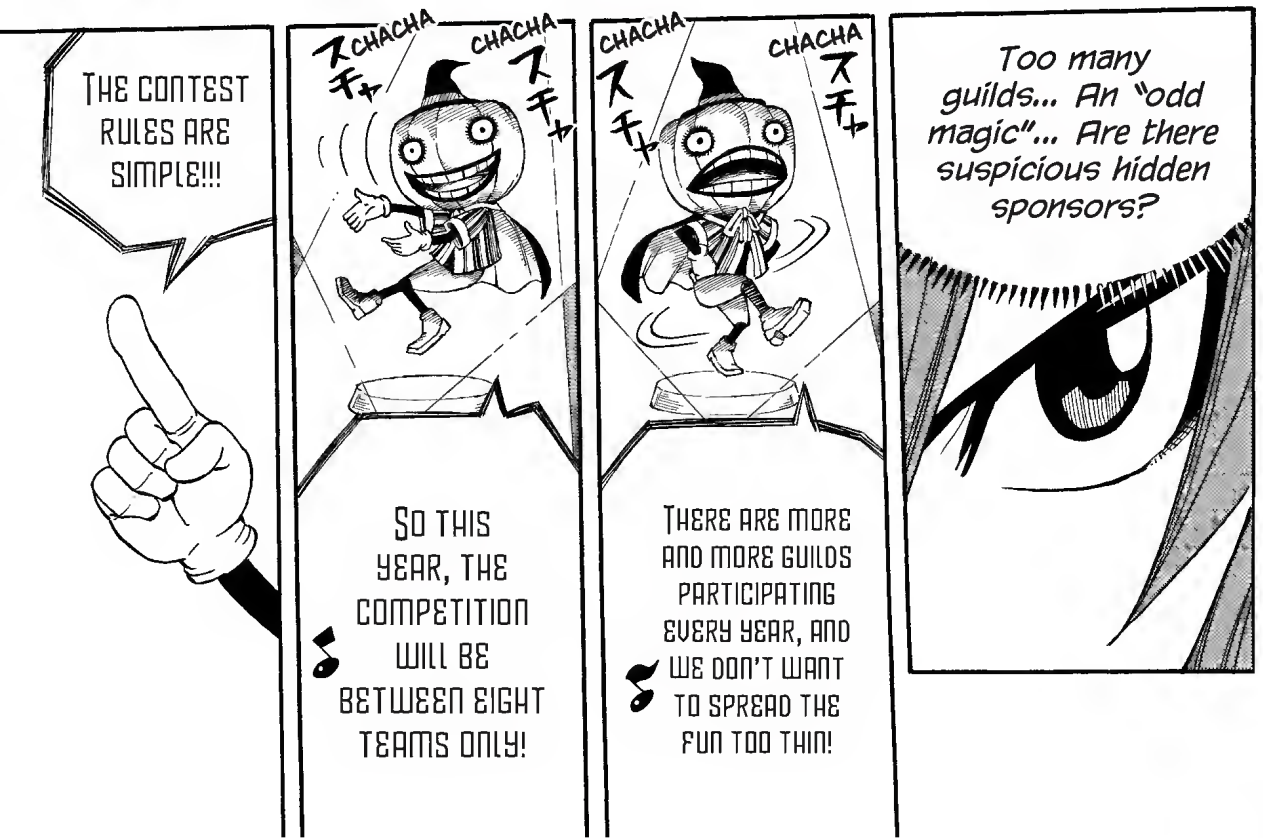

GONNNG
...we will start our PRELIMINARY COMPETITION!
We will now winnow down the 113 teams competing to eight, and to do that...


A pumpkin !!
A 3-D projection, huh?
What is that thing? It's huge!!!

First I've heard of it!!!
Prelimi-nary?!

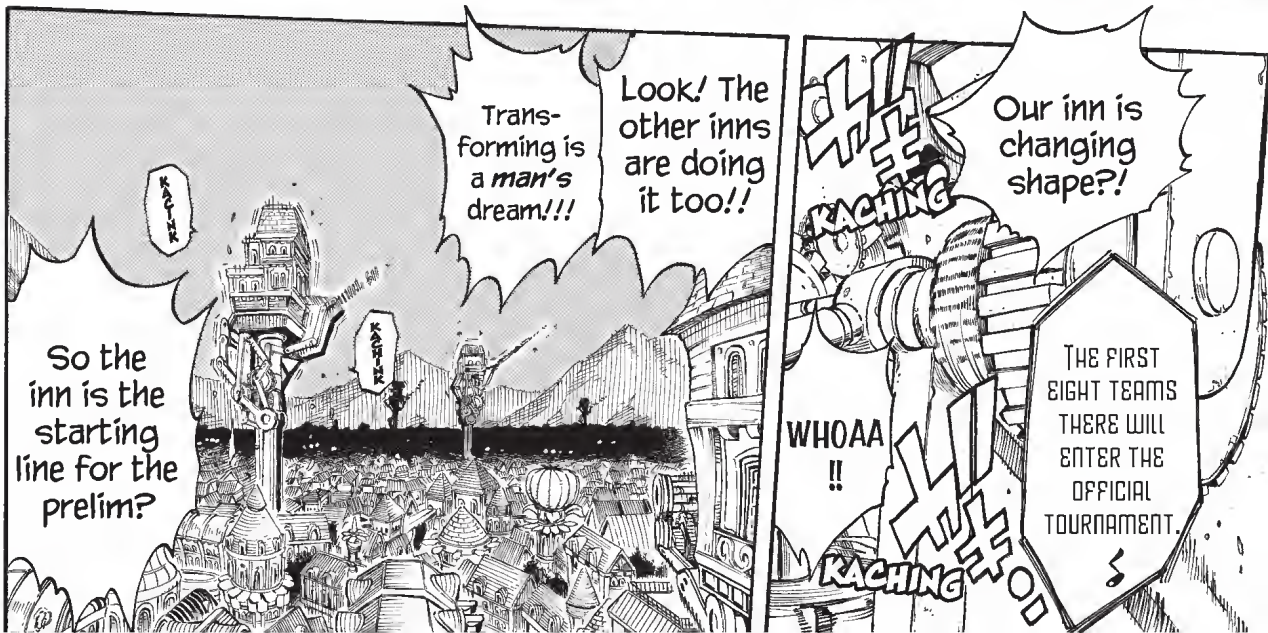

So midnight was the time when the prelims start?
And they're going to take 113 teams and narrow it down to eight?
No... What is this?
Did they have preliminaries in the previous games?


I have a bad feeling about this.
If they're having preliminaries, they should have warned us ahead of time.
That's way too many guilds to come out of Fiore...
A hundred thirteen ...?!
Huh?

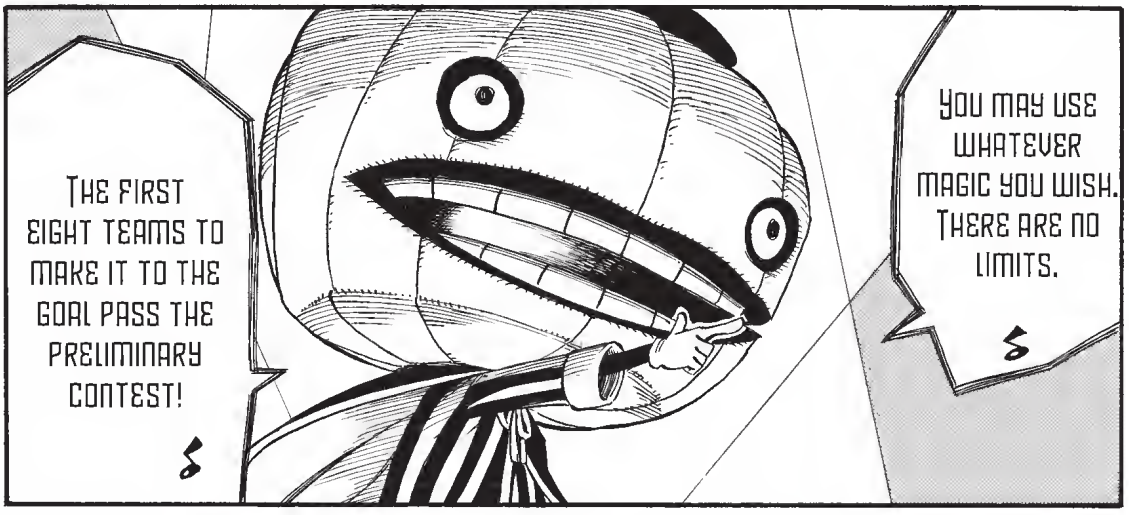

THE CONTEST RULES ARE SIMPLE!!!
CHACHA
CHACHA
SO THIS YEAR, THE COMPETITION WILL BE BETWEEN EIGHT TEAMS ONLY!
CHACHA
CHACHA
THERE ARE MORE AND MORE GUILDS PARTICIPATING EVERY YEAR, AND WE DON'T WANT TO SPREAD THE FUN TOO THIN!
Too many guilds... An "odd magic"... Are there suspicious hidden sponsors?

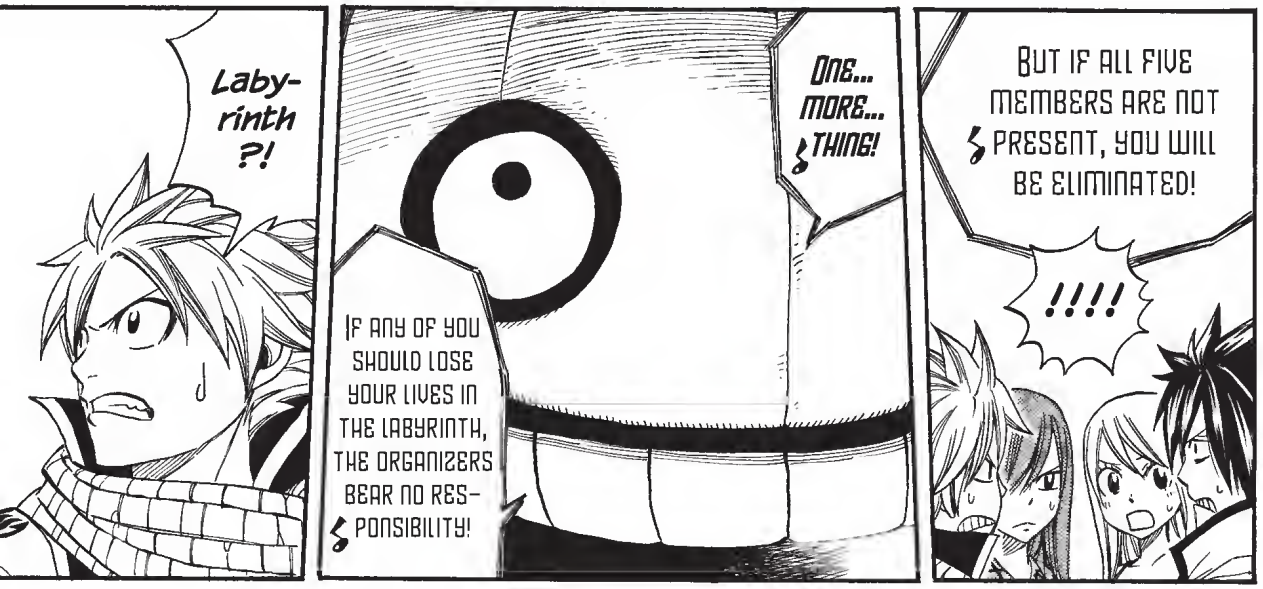
RUMMMBLL
What's this...?
RUMMMBLL
What ?!
Urp!

We wish to engage you all in a race!
KRAK KRAK
RUMMBLE
KACHINK
CRACHOOM
Your goal will be the stadium, Doms Frau!

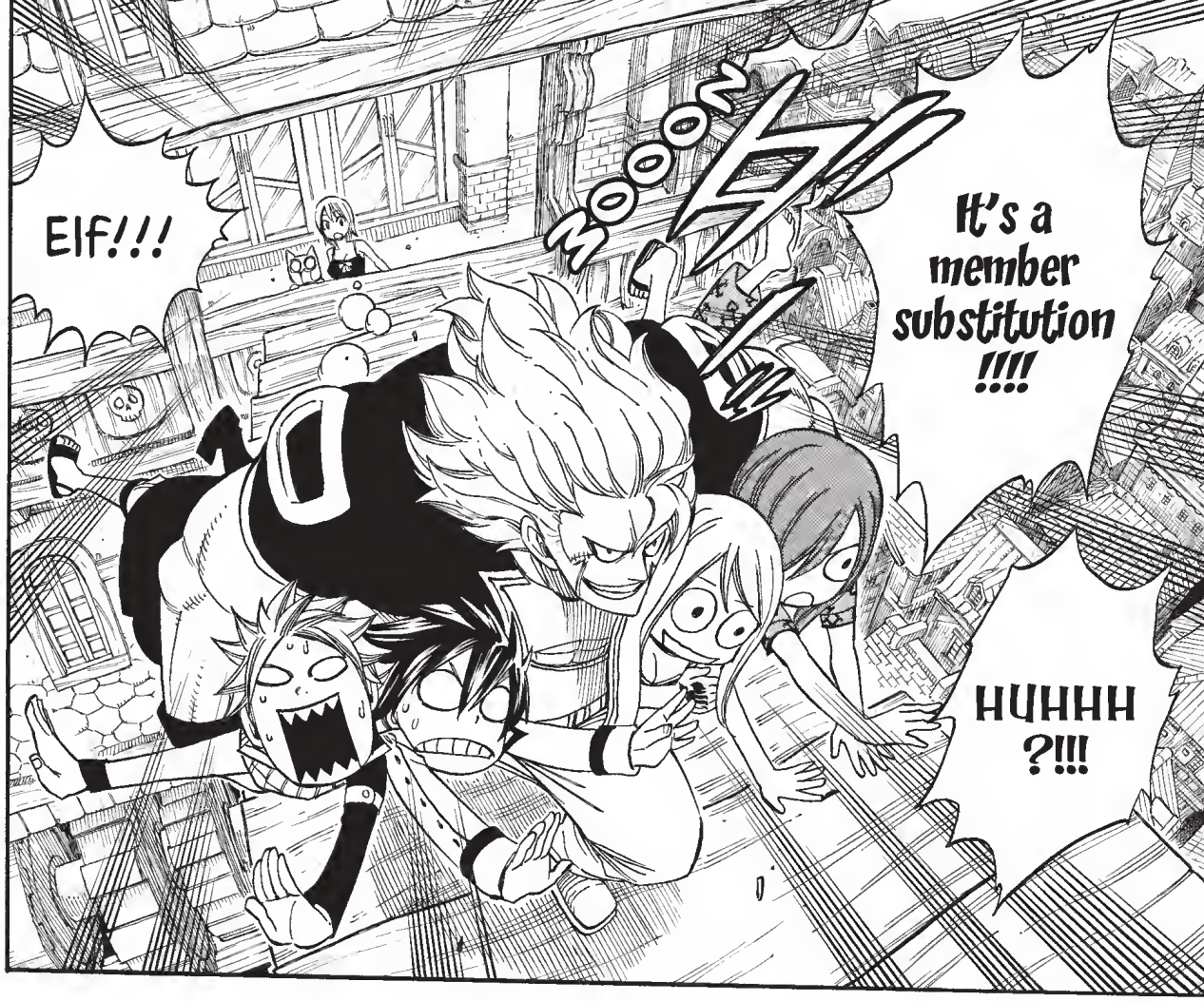

Trans-forming is a man's dream!!!
Look! The other inns are doing it too!!
KACHINK
KACHINK
So the inn is the starting line for the prelim?
Our inn is changing shape?!
KACHING
WHOAA !!
KACHING
The first eight teams there will enter the official tournament.

GACLAK
GACLAK
GACLAK
GACLAK
So this is the way we go?
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
They're making a path!!
RUMMMMBLE


THE FIRST EIGHT TEAMS TO MAKE IT TO THE GOAL PASS THE PRELIMINARY CONTEST!
YOU MAY USE WHATEVER MAGIC YOU WISH. THERE ARE NO LIMITS.


Laby-rinth ?!
IF ANY OF YOU SHOULD LOSE YOUR LIVES IN THE LABYRINTH, THE ORGANIZERS BEAR NO RES-PONSIBILITY!
ONE... MORE... THING!
BUT IF ALL FIVE MEMBERS ARE NOT PRESENT, YOU WILL BE ELIMINATED!
!!!!

What's *that* supposed to be?!
We have to go through that and head to the goal, right?
Since it's a *race*, we'd better hurry!
Wait!
We need to get to the goal with *all five members*!!
Wendy is missing!
Wendy !!!!
Even if Wendy isn't here...
...a *man* is here!!!!
LET THE PRELIMINARY CONTEST TO THE GRAND MAGIC GAMES, THE SKY LABYRINTH...
BEGIN !!!!
YAAAH!


Elf!!!
MOOOO
It's a member substitution !!!!
HUHHH ?!!!

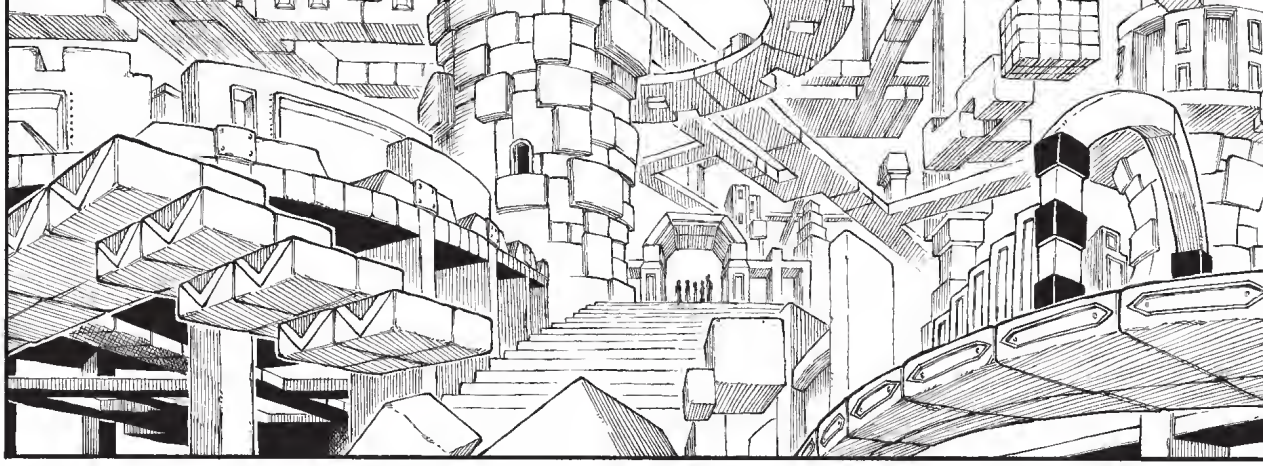
Lisanna!! Happy!!

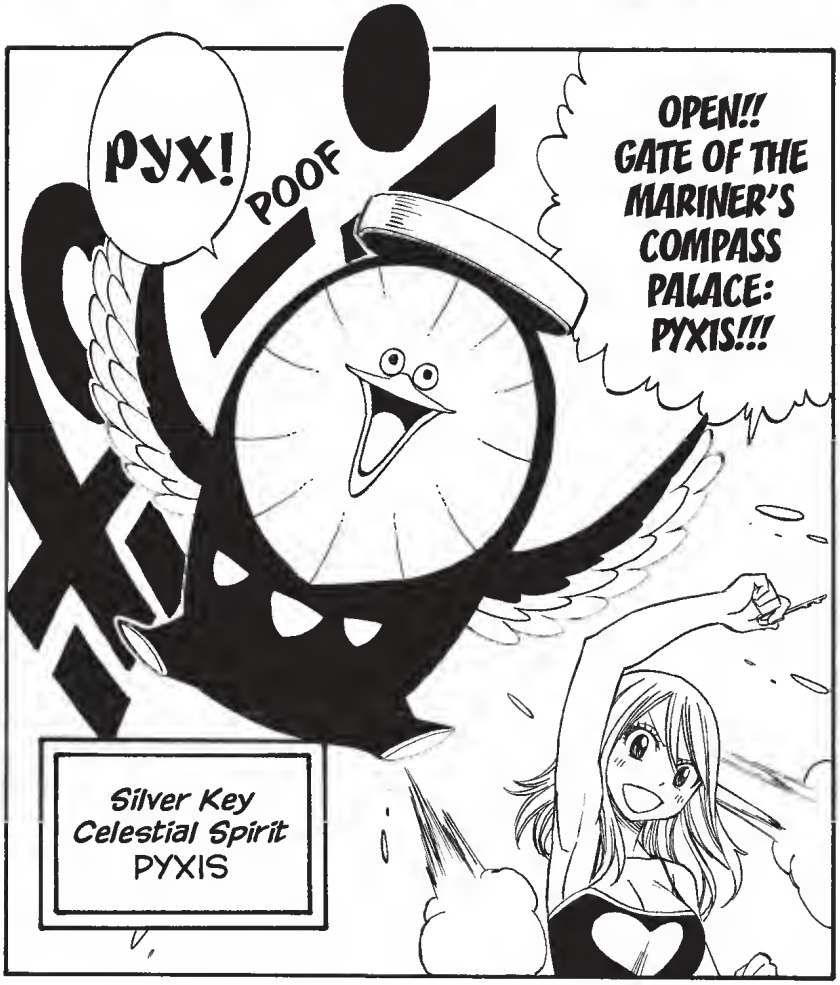
We're counting on you, Elfman!!
Leave it to me!!!
I don't see another choice... We don't have time to waste waiting for Wendy.

Give it your best, everybody!!
I will!! I'll call in a bunch of guild members to help!

I hope they're not caught up in any kind of trouble, but...
Go search for Wendy and Carla!!

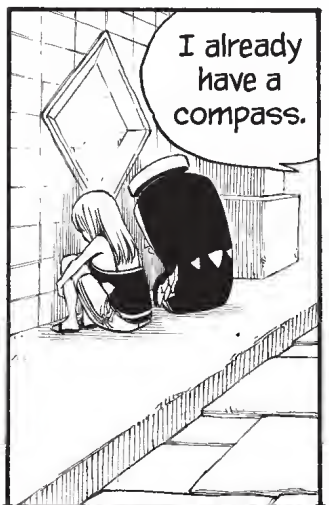
It's the gate to the maze!
Nope! It's our gateway to becoming Fiore's top guild!!!
Team Fairy Tail...
Let's go !!!!
YOOM

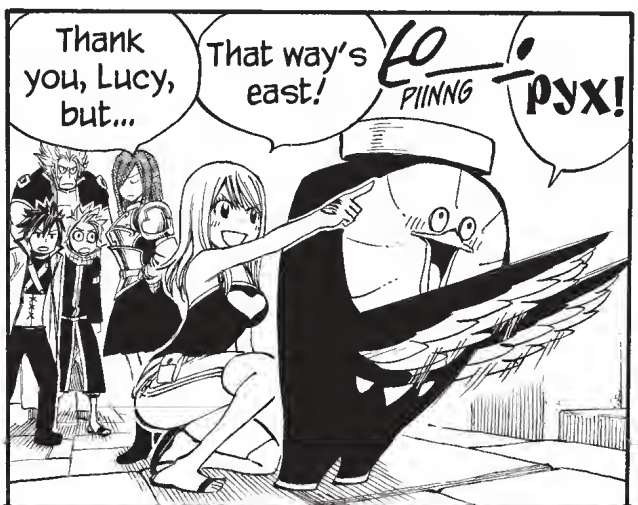


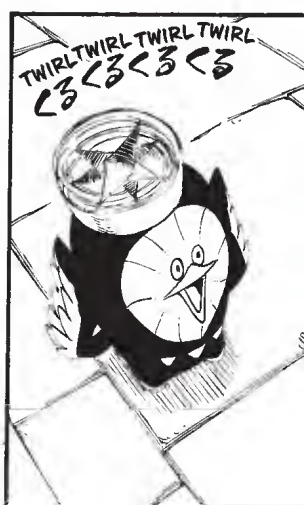

PYX!
POOF
OPEN!! GATE OF THE MARINER'S COMPASS PALACE: PYXIS!!!
Silver Key Celestial Spirit PYXIS

Gaah!! I stink at these kinda things!!!
The insides have turned into a 3-D maze, huh?

We basically must work our way east. The stadium is to the east.
Then leave that to me!!
CHING


I already have a compass.

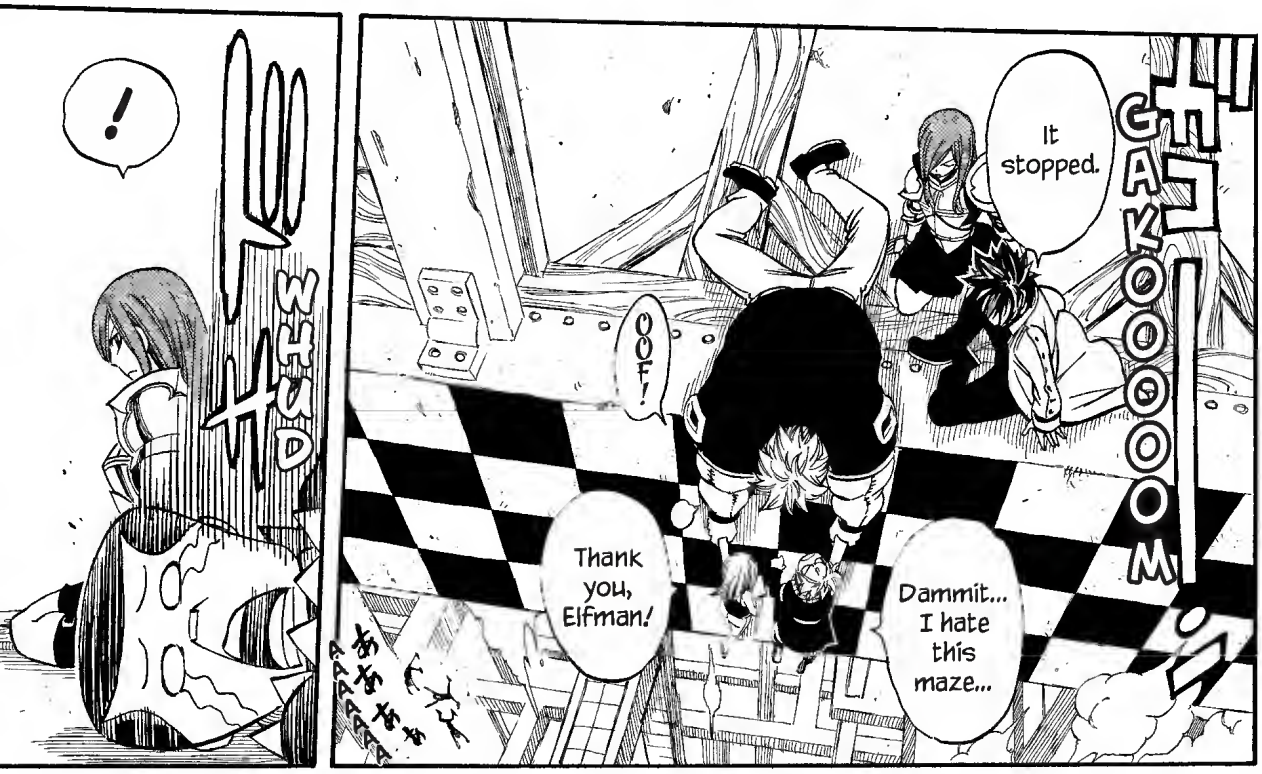

Thank you, Lucy, but...
That way's east!
PIINNG
PYX!


TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL
<3 <3 <3 <3

Oh, you mean like mapping?
Then I'll mark our route as we go.
!!!
It's Twilight Ogre?!!!
So THEY'RE in the games too?
!
Makes sense. The teams from other guilds are trying to get through the maze too.
Someone is there!
I always wanted some payback from them!!!!
Get 'em!!!
Never thought we'd face them this early!!!

AAAAA
あああああ
You're in our way!!!!
BAKOOOOM
What ?!
KARANG
KARANG
KATAK
KATAK
Urp!
Kya !!
The earth... I mean...
RUMMMMBBLE
The whole labyrinth is rotating !!!!

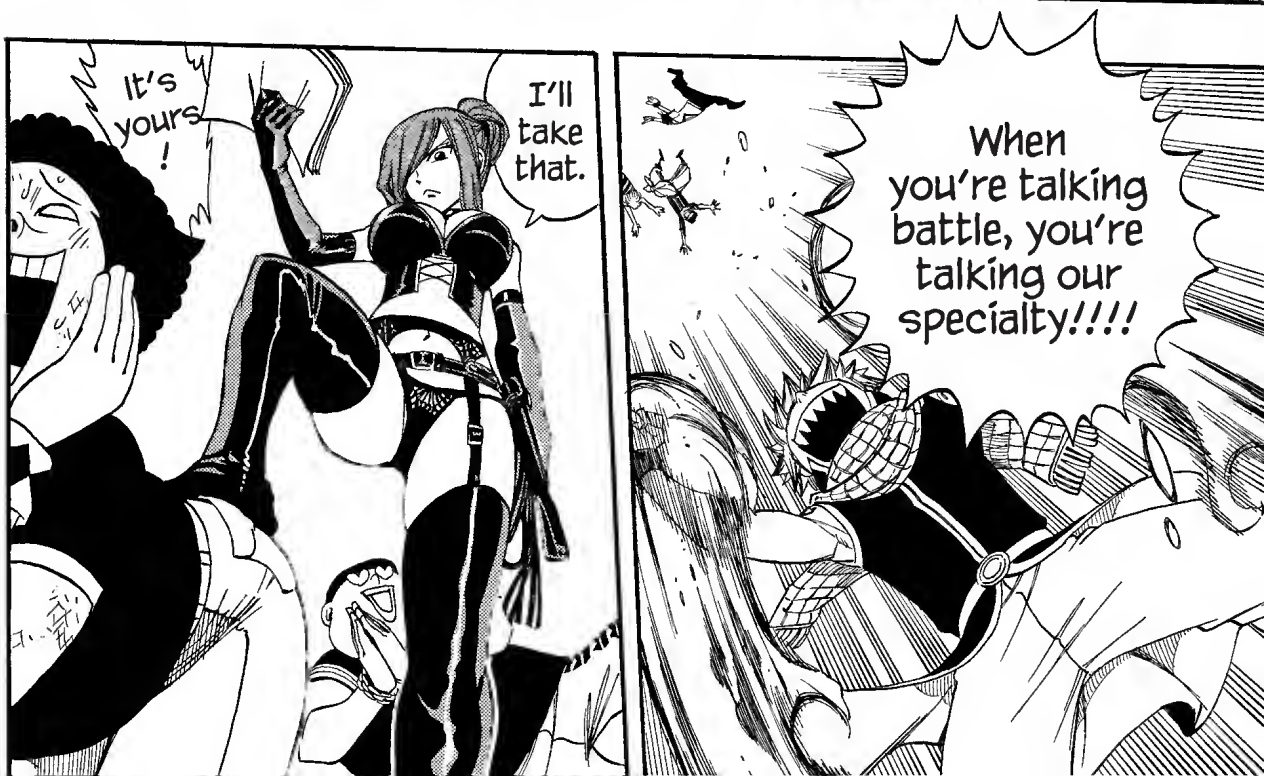
GRAB
ガシッ
Natsu!! Lucy!!!
Everyone, move toward a wall!!
It's rotating on the Z axis!!
RUMMMBLE
Whoaa !!


!
WHUD
GAKOOOOOM
It stopped.
OOF!
Thank you, Elfman!
Dammit... I hate this maze...
あああああ

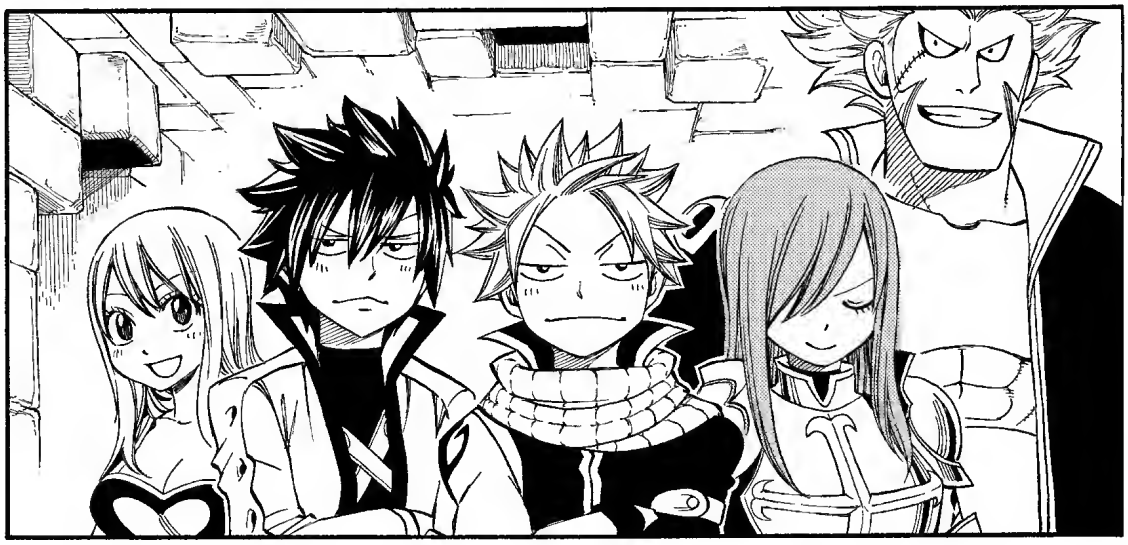
キュピーン
PIIINNNNG
If we can combine it with ours, we'll have an even better map!
Ogre was making a map too?
That's a lucky break!
FLIP

Guys, you've all got a scary look in your eyes...
That makes sense! I think I begin to see the meaning behind this preliminary test!

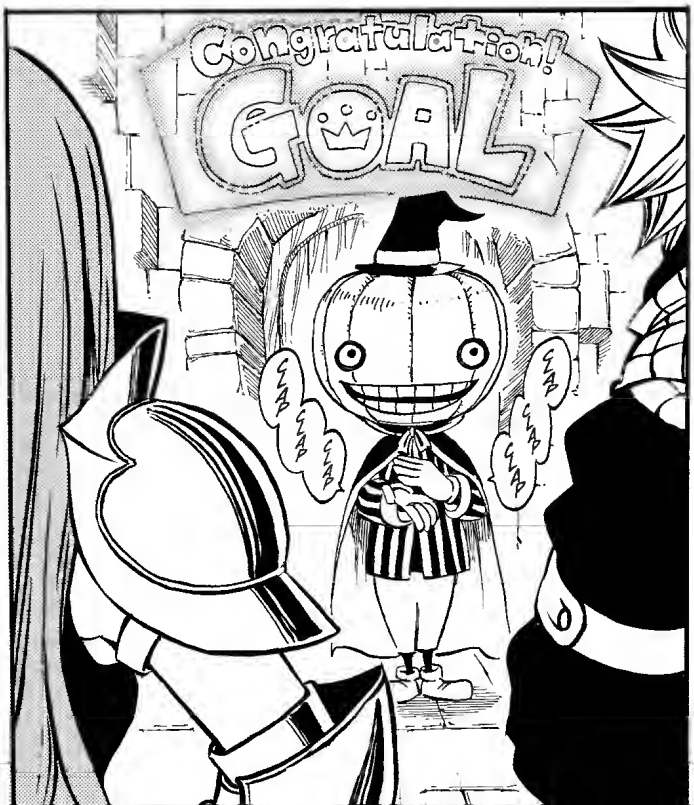
DOGAAM
VWAMM
Let's get the maps of all the other guys too!!!!
This isn't a contest, it's war!!! This is a *man's* Map-Theft Battle!!!!

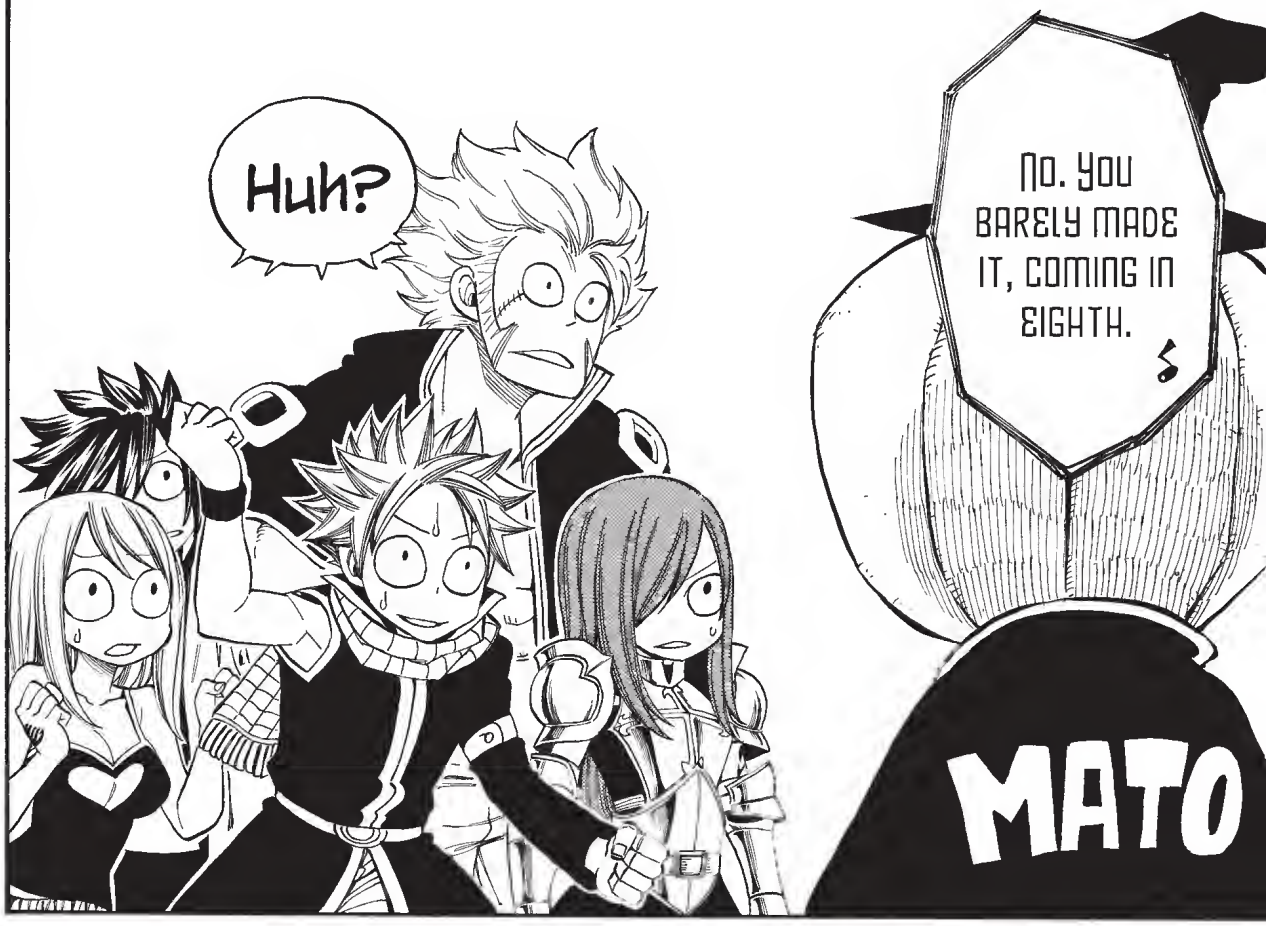

It's yours!
I'll take that.
When you're talking battle, you're talking our specialty!!!!

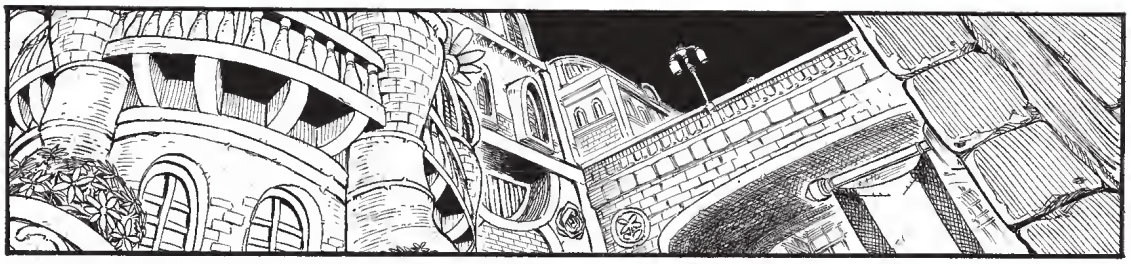
Congratulation!
GOAL
BOOM
WHAM
We can do this!!! We can win!!!
KAMM
CRASH
GRITCH
KAWHAM
This contest is ours!
Sorry about that.
Next !!!!

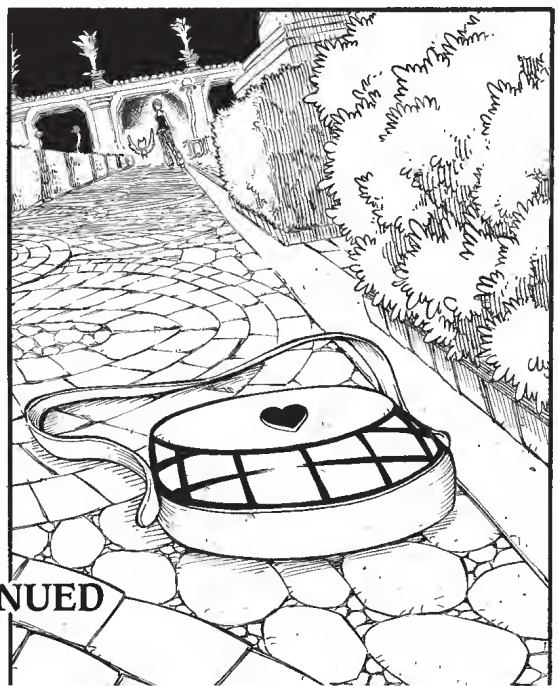


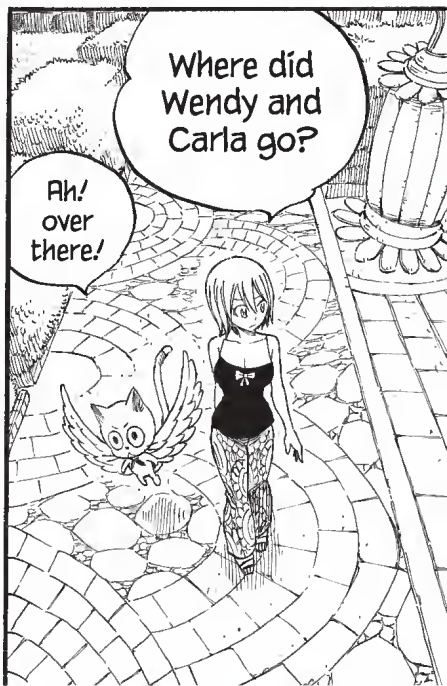
Congratulations. You have passed the preliminary contest.
Sure we did!! We moved like lightning!
CLAP
All right !!!
Do you think maybe we came in first?


Congratulation!
GOAL









TO BE CONTINUED

BONUS PAGES

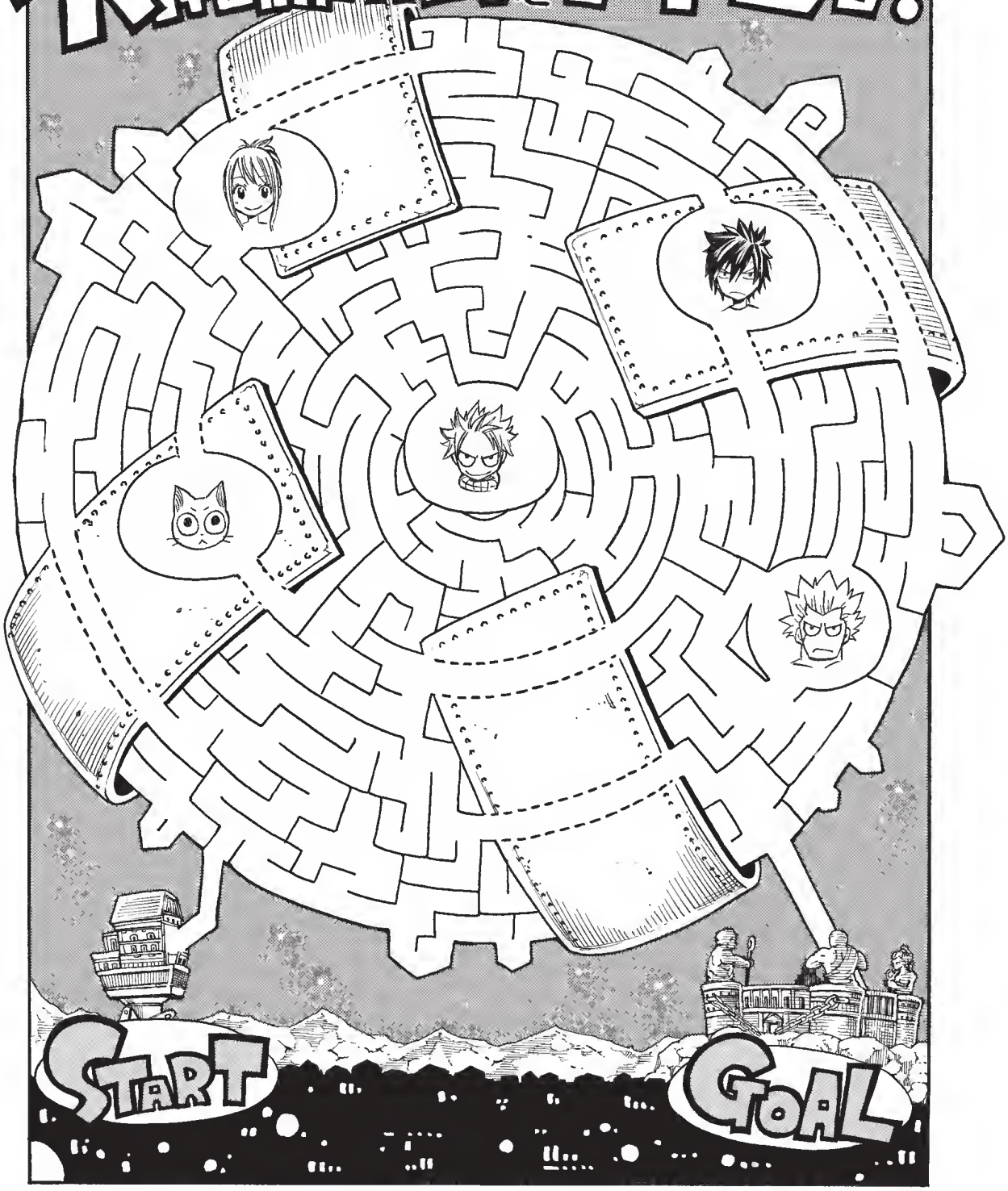
Spot the Differences

The drawings below look just like page 139! But when you look closer, something's different...

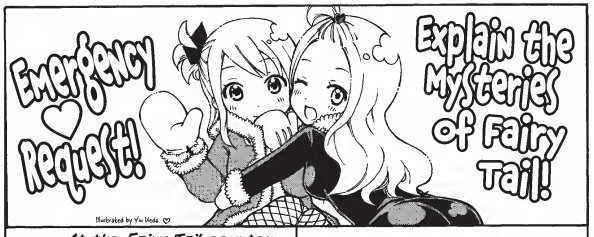
There are a total of 10 differences! Can you find them all?

Preliminary Contest Sky Labyrinth!

GRAND MAGIC GAMES 大魔闘演武 予選 空中迷宮!



Can you make it from the Start to the Goal?



At the Fairy Tail counter...

: Wow! ♡ What a cute picture!

: It isn't one of Mashima-sensei's, you know.

Lucy: It looks like it was drawn by one member of his staff, Ueda.

Mira: It's kind of nice to have one of these once in a while.

: Although I get the feeling it's just Mashima getting lazy.

Mira: Okay, shall we start with the questions?

Why is Master Mavis so young?

Lucy: This question came up a lot!

Mira: Sure, there are a lot of questions about her, but ever since the last volume, she's had a lot of pictures sent into Guild d'Art too!♡

Lucy: That tells you how popular her character is, huh?

Mira: Now, they asked why Master Mavis looks so young, so...

Lucy: So...?

Mira: We don't know yet.

Lucy: Huhhh?!!

Mira: So far, nothing in the main story or the side stories have touched upon the subject yet.

: I get it. He just hasn't thought up an answer yet, huh?

: Actually Mavis's background was part of the very first concepts, and there may (or may not) have been something there to surprise the readers.

Lucy: Really? Now you've got me interested!

Mira: But!

Lucy: There's a "but?"

: Even though we've let that slip, the surprise may never enter the story.

Lucy: That's no good!! That'll make the readers angry for sure!! If you're going to drop those hints here, then do the story!! You'd better, got it?

Continued on the right-hand page.

Continued from the left-hand page.

Mira: On to the next question.

With seven years having passed, what's happened to Master Hades, Rusty, and Kain?

Lucy: That's one thing I want to know too!

Mira: A similar question, "What happened to Zeref," is coming in a lot too.

Lucy: But won't people find out for themselves before too long?

Mira: That's true. Let's just say, "expect some fun when we get there!"

Lucy: And since it may have some relation to the question above, here's this question.

Zeref's character and background aren't really clear to me.

Mira: .....

Lucy: .....

: Come to think of it, he does seem like a complicated character.

Lucy: When he was supposed to be asleep, he was actually awake all the time.

Mira: When he wants to preserve a life, he unconsciously takes the life instead.

Mira: And to keep that from happening, he has to forget the weight of human life.

Lucy: A pretty amazing character.

Mira: It's still a long time until what is behind his character will be revealed, but apparently we're allowed to give one hint.

Lucy: Allowed by who?

Mira: Mashima-sensei.

: I hope his editor doesn't get mad at him for it.

Mira: He says that he's using a particular trick in regards to Zeref's existence.

Lucy: Trick? What's that supposed to mean?

Mira: I can't say any more than that. But it seems that Mashima-sensei has taken the unusual step of deciding on things like Zeref's secret past and loads of other small details.

: Eh? Isn't that jumping past proper procedure?

Mira: He say's he'll do whatever it takes if it's to surprise the readers! So look forward to some good twists!

Lucy: Hmm... Isn't this exactly the same as the answer to the Mavis question?

: Well, with Zeref, he's sure that's he's going to draw it someday!

: But I want to know about Mavis too!

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild is looking for illustrations! Please send in your art on a postcard or at postcard size, and do it in black pen, okay? Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your illustration!

FAIRY TAIL GUILD d'ART

Aomori Prefecture, Flirant

▲Whoa! Thanks for all the Wendys!

Kanagawa Prefecture, Erika Yamaguchi

▲Sisters who get along really well! Gives off a nice feeling!

Kanagawa Prefecture, Ri-chan

▲Then what song did you like the best?

Osaka, Kyōka Ruzuki

▲Brings back memories!! But he did show up recently, huh?

Saitama Prefecture, Tsubame

▲And really quickly, these two show up again. Merudy's grown up a lot!

Hokkaido, Tomihide Tsuda

▲Thanks for doing so much drawing!

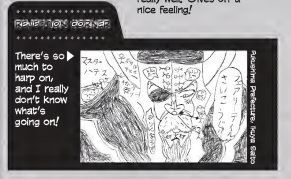
Aichi Prefecture, Chika Goto

▲Ah! I see you share an attraction to this character with Fairy Tail's director, Ishihira-san.

Saitama Prefecture, do it

▲From Happy with love.

REMINISCENCE CORNER



Aomori Prefecture, Yuya Saitō

It's always those three, huh?

Kanagawa Prefecture, Tōka

Hokkaido, Sarasa Kokubun

▲They look good surrounded in black! Makes them look cool!

Saitama Prefecture, Miyana

▲What did you think when these two met again?

Aichi Prefecture, Chun

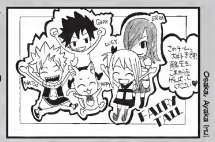
▲Carla is finally able to say what she always wanted to. Great, huh?

Kyoto, Ryō Goto

▲Just who is Panther Lily saying, "You're so doing it," to?!

By sending in letters or postcards you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

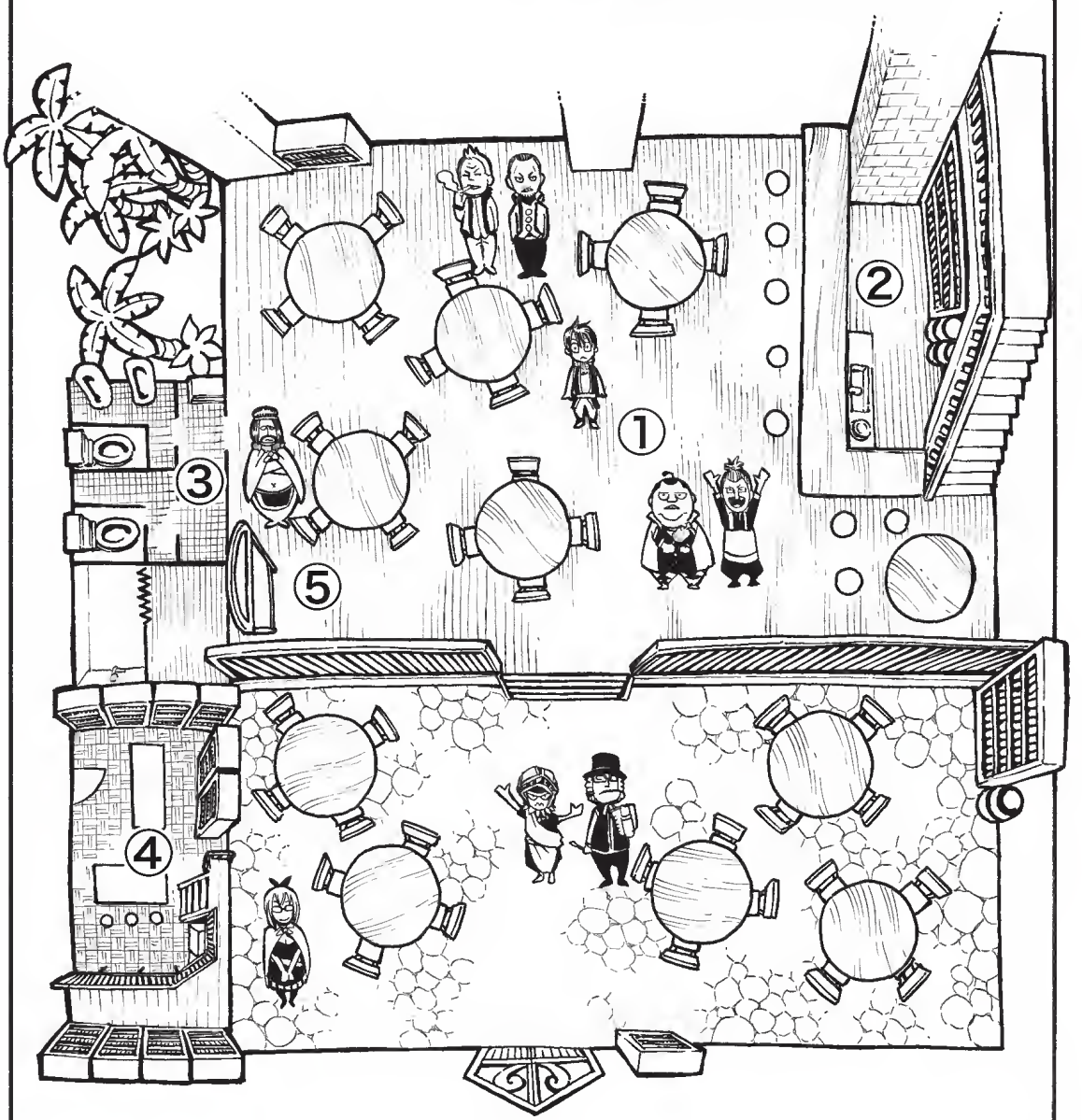
Ohh! Now that's cute!! Thanks for cheering me on!!



Chiba, Ayaka Inui

1) Bar Area
2) Bar Counter & Kitchen
3) Bathroom & shower
4) Store Room &
Records Room
5) Request Board

GUILD REPORT NEW FAIRTAIL



Afterword
あとがき

The Grand Magic Games!!!! A festival! A festival! Heave-ho! Heave-ho! And so, although these are the same Natsu & crew who are always putting their lives on the line in their battles, this particular series will focus on them doing battle in order to reclaim the honor of their guild. At first, I thought of the Grand Magic Games as a simple battle tournament, but that's been done so many times, I discarded that idea. (Call me perverse.)

Personally, I just love those hot plot twists, but Fairy Tail, while being a battle manga, is also about the importance of the "bonds within the guild." If this were just battles, that would make it hard to return to that theme. Of course there ***will*** be battles though. There will be combinations that seem really unusual and competitions that I always wanted to see. I'm planning all sorts of fun things! And more than anything, the character count outdoes anything in Fairy Tail history so far! The contestants and other major characters bring it to over 40 characters!!!! Really, it's a struggle to draw it every week, but it's so fun to draw that "festival" feeling! Up until now, we've had battles against bad people and dark guilds, but I want this story to give you a better view of the Fairy Tail world and all the various types of guilds that are in it.

FAIRY TAIL 31

HIRO MASHIMA

FROM HIRO MASHIMA

I've got a bad feeling about this. With the Sirius Island story, I included an enormous number of characters, and really whined about drawing it. With the new storyline, I've got this really, really bad premonition. I couldn't be thinking of having, like, more than forty characters appearing, could I? I wonder if I'm going to survive this…

Original Jacket Design: Hisao Ogawa

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

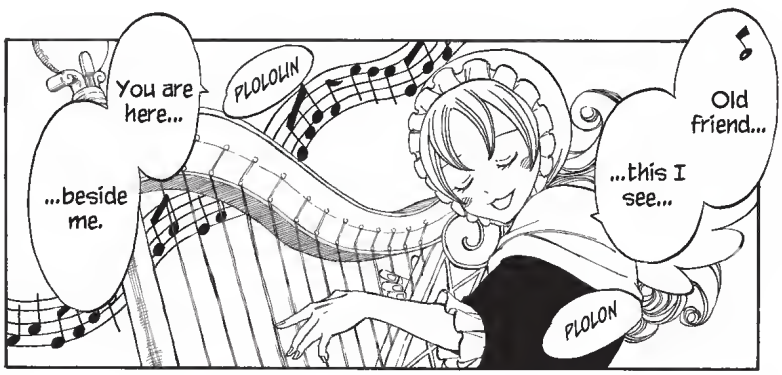
Page 26, Frosch

Frosch is the German word for frog. It also happens to be a German brand of household cleaner with a frog logo that was introduced in Japan about a year ago. Coincidence?

Page 76, Read this word

In the English language, it's common for words with odd spellings to be difficult to pronounce, but in Japanese, there are words made up of kanji where one does not remember (or never knew in the first place) how the word was pronounced. For those who don't know about the Japanese writing system, kanji are ideograms (pictograms look like what they describe whereas ideograms are symbols that may or may not look like what they represent) and as such don't automatically have a sound attached. In some other languages such as Chinese, each ideogram usually has only one pronunciation in any particular dialect, but in Japanese most have at least two and some have many, many more possible pronunciations. So it's not unusual for a fully educated adult to not know how an occasional word is pronounced, and it is very common for children Wendy's age to not know.

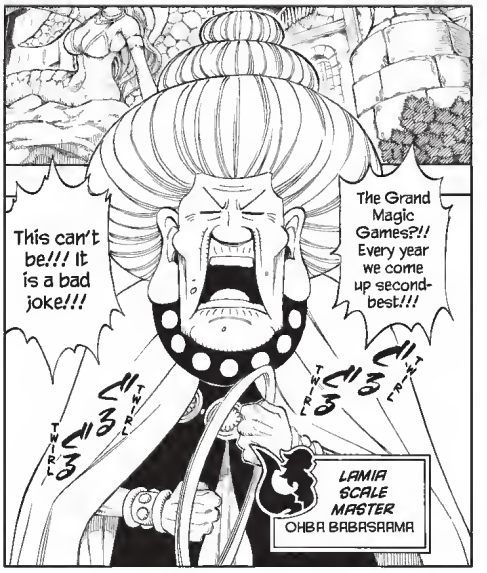
Page 104, Lyra's song



Although this translator would not blame you if you didn't think the translated English lyrics were very poetic, please rest assured that the translation of the song took no liberties with the meaning in order to add some rhymes to it. The meaning of what Lyra is singing here is almost identical to the meaning of the song in Japanese.

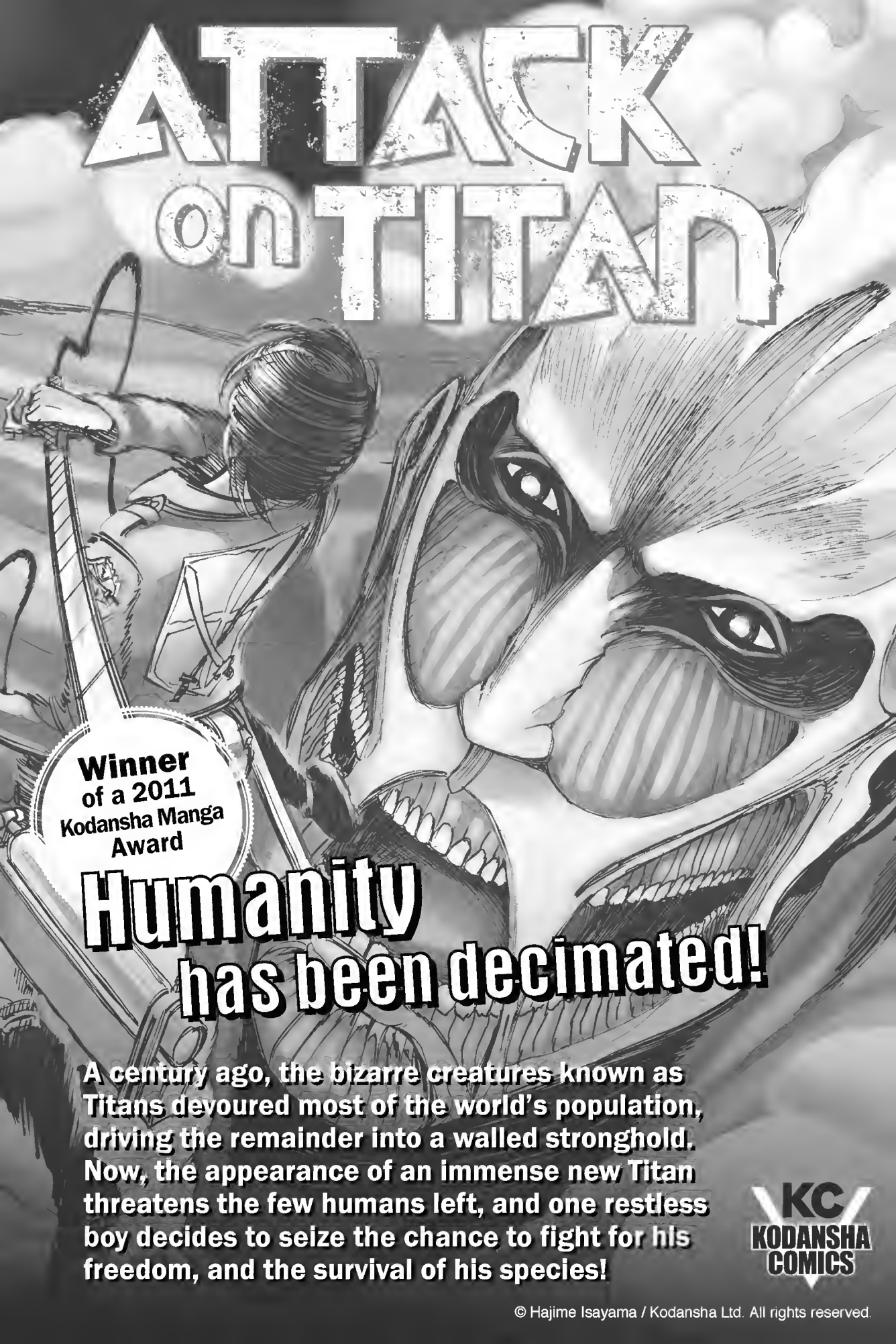
Page 112, Ohba Babasaama

This character is an old woman, and her name reflects it. Ohba is a word that means "grandmother," and baba is another word that means "grandmother" or "old lady." The saama is probably a nod to the -sama honorific. A little later on the same page, Lyon refers to her as "Obaba," which also means "grandmother" or "old lady."



Page 116, Punishment

The position Virgo is demonstrating in that first panel on page 116 is a torture that was found in ancient Japan. A person is bound by their hands and feet, forced to sit seiza (with their shins tucked underneath their thighs) on a grated wooden board with sharp corners sticking up, and then weights are applied to the tops of their thighs. The corners bite into the person's sensitive shins as the weights press down on them. Generally if the victim was being tortured for information, resistance was met with more weight being applied to their thighs.



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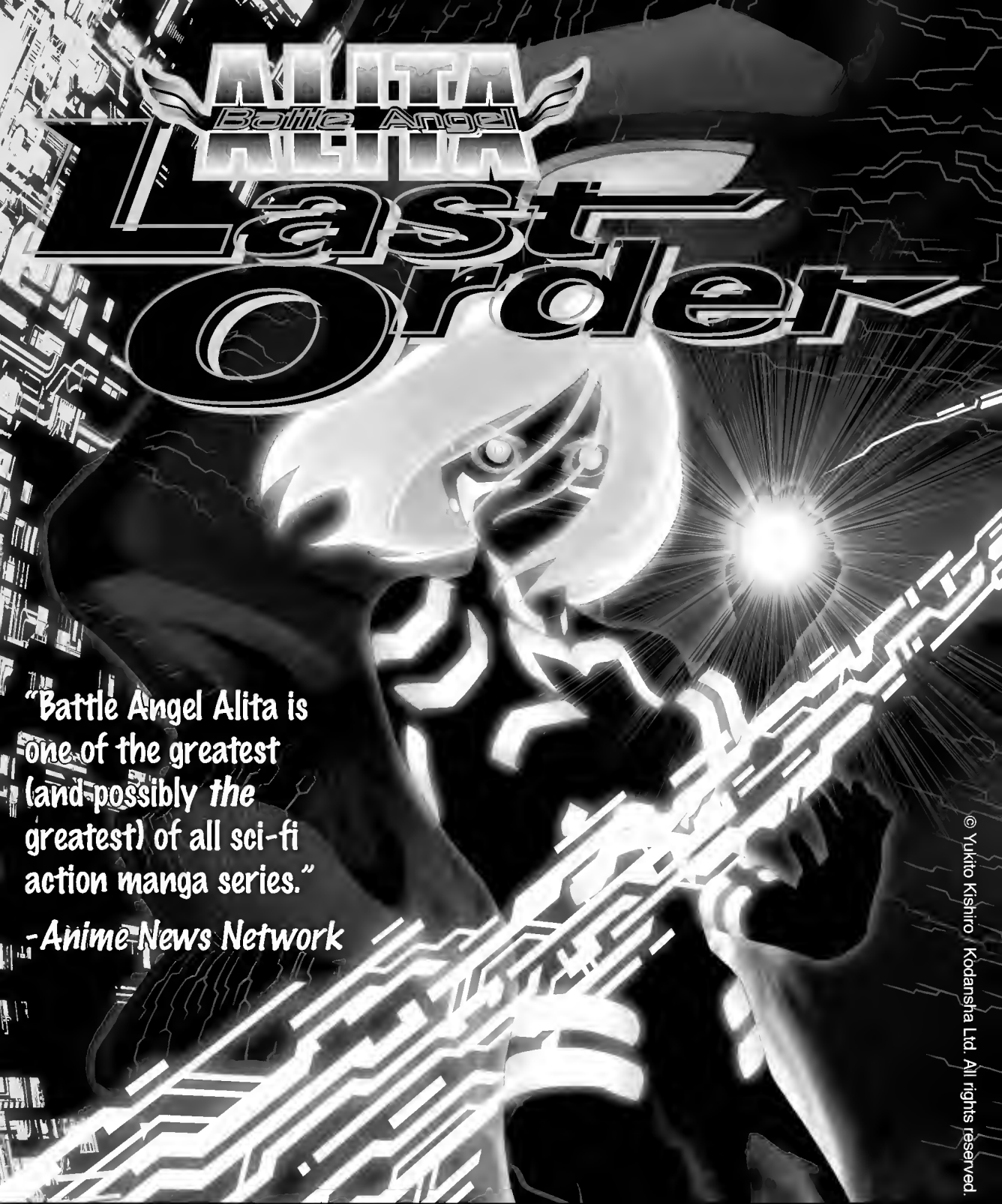

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Lettering: AndWorld Design

TOMARE!

You're going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*, go to the *end!*

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!